

The Bidder's Counsel / How Candidate Cities Go Backstage

A New Breed of Lobbyists Shapes the Olympics

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

TORONTO

After Salt Lake City lost the 1998 Winter Olympics to Nagano, Japan, the Salt Lake Olympic organizers vowed to change their strategy for the 2002 Games. One of their first moves was to hire a former member of Egypt's national volleyball team who had close personal contacts with athletic officials in North Africa.

The former volleyball player, Mahmoud Farnawani, a 65-year-old sports souvenirs salesman, is one of a new breed of global lobbyists playing an increasingly influential role in decisions about where to stage the Olympics.

Salt Lake City officials had ample reason to believe Mr. Farnawani could help them. After he worked as a volunteer for Toronto during its unsuccessful campaign to win the 1996 Summer Games, the Australian Olympic Committee paid him \$60,000 to help Sydney secure the 2000 Summer Games.

He earned his biggest payday so far, \$161,000, from Salt Lake City for his efforts to secure votes from North African delegates.

In a series of interviews, he compared his work to that of a lobbyist astutely identifying the preferences of key lawmakers. He explained, for instance, that he has used his knowledge of committee members to counsel bidders for the Olympics about how to use the information to their advantage. The information is often personal.

"Is he happily married or is he not?" Mr. Farnawani said, offering an example of information he might provide. "How many children does he have? Is he a religious person or not? What kind of food does he eat, what kind of subjects not to discuss?"

THE BACKSTAGE role played by people like Mr. Farnawani has only recently come to light. Now Olympic officials are scrambling to determine just how many of the consultants have been at work behind the scenes and if they might have ever gone too far. Investigations into Salt Lake City's payment of cash and gifts to Olympic committee members have not accused Mr. Farnawani or other similar lobbyists of wrongdoing, nor has anyone accused them of breaking any laws or acting improperly.

But the North Africans courted by Mr. Farnawani have figured prominently in the Olympic movement's recently released report on abuses by Salt Lake City. A son of Libya's Olympic delegate received a scholarship to a Utah university and \$700 a month in payments. A Sudanese delegate received \$25,000 in cash.

Mr. Farnawani, who is not currently working for any city, said he did not know of these arrangements and was surprised to read about them in news accounts. The Libyan delegate resigned from the international committee and the Sudanese member was expelled from it Sunday.

Olympic officials said they were determined to impose much stricter rules on the lobbyists. Speaking generally of the lobbyists, Richard Pound, the senior Olympic official who conducted the International Olympic Committee's investigation into wrongdoing surrounding Salt Lake's efforts, said he and others were troubled by their work.

"We are looking into this issue of the so-called agents, who prey on the vulnerabilities and naivete of bidding cities," Mr. Pound said. "By the time we are through with so-called Olympic agents, I doubt that it will be a profitable business — if it ever was."

Mr. Pound's report on the Salt Lake bid did not accuse Mr. Farnawani of any specific wrongs.

Until the recent revelations, Olympic bids were



Mahmoud Farnawani, one of a new breed of Olympic lobbyist, worked for Salt Lake City.

awarded by a secret vote of the IOC, which comprises more than 100 delegates. As they competed, officials seeking the games for a certain city found themselves pondering how they might sway a particular Olympic official.

The lobbyists were not bashful. Doug Gatlin, executive director of Atlanta's successful effort to stage the 1996 Summer Games, recalled that local officials were besieged by middlemen. He said one offered to deliver votes for a fee of \$250,000.

"So many people swarming around after you become a bid city" in advance of the voting, Mr. Gatlin recalled. "They are subtle. They say they can offer introductions, get you to the right people."

Lobbying by a city competing to host the Games has been around for a long time, but the use of outsiders paid large amounts of money is a recent phenomenon, growing as the Games have become more profitable for the cities.

Mr. Farnawani is only one of several playing the trade. Salt Lake City used at least two other middlemen, a Kuwaiti and a Utah businessman. Sydney also had two other lobbyists, one of whom handled

Latin American nations, the other Eastern Europe. What the bid committee in Sydney called "regional specialists" included a Hungarian-born American, Gabon Komyahy, who was a swimmer and tennis player and could speak a half-dozen languages. He was sent to lobby the Eastern European delegations.

For the Latin Americans, Sydney turned to Elizabeth Fox, a Colombian who had emigrated to Australia. Her primary job was to act as an interpreter and to be a hostess at parties.

"I had a beautiful house, right on the water," she said in a phone interview from her home in a Sydney suburb. "We had wonderful dinners."

She said she was not paid. "I just believe in helping," she said.

For his part, Mr. Farnawani said he regards himself as a legitimate lobbyist who uses his contacts and his cultural expertise to advise com-

peting cities on how best to make their case to Arab-African members of the committee.

"I was surprised by all this news," Mr. Farnawani said of the scholarships and payments. "I read it for the first time as everybody read it. It was quite shocking for me."

He said he advised Salt Lake and Sydney that when a Muslim delegate was coming to their city, there should be a Koran and a prayer rug in his hotel room and no alcohol in the minibar.

He acknowledges, however, that the cities were paying for more than his insights on Muslim culture: They were buying his personal relationships with Olympic officials.

According to documents made public by Australian Olympic officials, Mr. Farnawani was present at a Monte Carlo hotel in September 1993 when the Olympic committee voted, 45-to-43, to give Sydney the 2000 Games over Beijing. The night before, the documents show, Australian officials met with two African delegates and promised their respective Olympic committees a total of \$70,000. They confirmed their arrangement the morning of the vote in a letter.

"This morning," read the letter, "Mahmoud el-Farnawani is meeting with you with full authority to commit me in respect to any assistance you identify." Mr. Farnawani said he could not account for the letter's content.

AFTER SYDNEY'S close victory, Mr. Farnawani won a recommendation that led to his being hired by the Salt Lake City bid team. His task was to lobby for the votes of the five members from the Arab states of North Africa: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

Two of those delegates have been caught in the scandal. Bashir Atanabulsi, from Libya, resigned after it was divulged that his son had received a scholarship and \$700 a month in expense money from the Salt Lake City bid committee. And Zein El Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir, of Sudan, was expelled after investigators concluded that he received more than \$25,000 from the Salt Lake City bid committee for his personal benefit.

Mr. Farnawani described both men as his good friends and he denied knowing anything about the payments.

"These people," Mr. Farnawani said of the committee members, "I knew them for a long time, so they will not do anything to hurt their image before me. Nobody will dare to ask for anything like that from me. And the bid city never asked me to do this kind of thing."

Mr. Farnawani's lawyer, David Goodman, asserted that the agents were being made scapegoats. Mr. Goodman said there was nothing wrong with a city's hiring agents.

Albright Asks Arab Aid In Ending Saddam Rule

She Stops in Jordan to Support New Heir

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

AMMAN, Jordan — On a quick swing through Arab capitals that ended here, the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, assured friendly leaders Thursday that the United States was serious about ending Saddam Hussein's rule in Iraq and asked for their assistance.

She told them the new U.S. policy, which she described as "containing, not regime change," represented a long-term commitment by the Clinton administration to combine military, political, economic and diplomatic pressure on Mr. Saddam, according to senior officials traveling with her.

The stop in Jordan was added to her schedule to show support for Crown Prince Abdullah, who was sworn in Wednesday as his father, King Hussein, returned to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for a new round of cancer treatment.

"I wanted to stop here in order to make very clear that the U.S. stands with Jordan," Mrs. Albright said after her talks with Abdullah. She said Washington looked forward to the king's recovery, but U.S. officials pointedly expressed confidence in Abdullah's ability and insisted they expected no change in Jordanian policy if the prince, a career soldier, became king.

Although it was essentially a courtesy call, Mrs. Albright said she and the crown prince talked briefly about Iraq, and she repeated to him that "our policy is to contain Saddam and work toward regime change there."

Her public comments and background briefings by senior aides underlined the extent to which Washington's strategy for dealing with Iraq has changed since Mr. Saddam cut off UN weapons inspections last year. Convinced that no credible inspection system can be reinstated while Mr. Saddam rules Iraq, the United States is marshaling resources to get rid of him, and until he is ousted it will use military force to keep him from making trouble.

"The Iraqi people deserve better leadership," Mrs. Albright told U.S. troops Thursday morning at the Prince Sultan Air Base, in the desert south of Riyadh. "We are dedicated to that mission, and we don't give up before the job is finished. So it's not going to be real soon that you're out of here, but it is very important that you are here."

On Wednesday, Mrs. Albright reviewed the new policy with the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. She then flew to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for talks with Crown Prince Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz and Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal that lasted well past midnight.

Given the build-up to opposition to Mr. Saddam this new policy has been greeted with skepticism in the Arab world.

Thursday morning, two Saudi-owned newspapers in London quoted an unidentified Saudi official as saying that the kingdom opposed any foreign role in changing Iraq's government and that any change should "take place from within Iraq and by the people themselves."

Senior U.S. officials did not claim that Mr. Mubarak or Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia endorsed the U.S. campaign or offered to help, but they said leaders of both countries were sympathetic to the idea that Iraq's people, isolated and impoverished by years of tight economic sanctions, deserved new leadership. They said Mr. Mubarak and Prince Abdullah asked them not to say anything about what assistance, if any, they promised to provide.

"What I heard at the last two stops is a deep conviction that the only way out is a change of regime," a senior official said after Mrs. Albright left Saudi Arabia.

Judging from the private comments of administration officials, as well as from recent public remarks by Mrs. Albright and General Anthony Zinni, commander of the Southern Command, the Clinton administration appears convinced that Mr. Saddam was seriously weakened inside Iraq by U.S. air strikes last month. U.S. officials also said the Iraqi leader undercut his political stature throughout the Arab world with his recent calls for the overthrow of the Egyptian and Saudi leaders. Further, U.S. officials said the reputation of Iraq's exile opposition for fecklessness and ineptitude is undeserved.

There is serious opposition to Saddam Hussein inside Iraq, people are paying with their lives every day," a senior official said. "And outside there are many groups that have links inside Iraq, who can communicate a new vision of Iraq to their sympathizers at home. 'People go in and out. The game can't stop that.'"

Mrs. Albright introduced the Egyptian and Saudi leaders to Frank Ricciardone, whom she recently appointed as special representative for the transition of Iraq, funded by Congress with \$97 million. Mr. Ricciardone, who will coordinate the effort to organize the opposition, understands the difficulty of his task. As deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Turkey, he was responsible for evacuating thousands of CIA-sponsored Iraqi dissidents when Mr. Saddam's troops overran their operations in northern Iraq in 1996.

King Hussein "Feeling Better"

King Hussein was "feeling better" Thursday after spending his first night at the Mayo Clinic, Reuters reported. A senior Jordanian official said doctors would decide soon whether to proceed with a bone marrow transplant. "We do not know yet but they will decide in the next few days," the official said.

August Everding, 70, Director Of Bavaria's State Theater, Dies

The Associated Press

MUNICH — August Everding, 70, who served as Bavaria's state theater director since 1982 and also produced operas in New York, died late Tuesday.

ARD-TV news said the cause of death was cancer.

Dubbed the "friendly despot," Mr. Everding was known for his strong personality and sometimes impish ideas.

His many productions included stints at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He co-designed Wagner's "Lohengrin" in the 1970s and he directed Modest Mussorgsky's "Khovanshchina."

He was also artistic director for the German display at the world's fair in Hannover in 2000.

Charles Luckman, 89, Architect

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Charles Luckman, 89, the entrepreneur and architect once described as the "boy wonder of American business," died Tuesday.

Mr. Luckman was trained as an ar-

chitect but first found success in the soap business. Time magazine put the soap salesman on its cover in 1937 as the "boy wonder" of American industry.

In 1950, he established his architecture firm in Los Angeles, where he mixed his design ideas with conservative business principles, introducing market research to architecture. He helped design the Prudential Center in Boston, New York's Madison Square Garden and several Los Angeles landmarks.

Thomas C. Mann, 87, Diplomat

WASHINGTON (NYT) — Thomas C. Mann, 87, a career diplomat and an architect of a switch in the 1960s to a U.S. foreign policy in Latin America emphasizing free enterprise, died Saturday at his home in Austin, Texas.

He played important foreign policy roles involving many countries. In 1964 he arranged help for Eduardo Frei Montalva, a moderate, in defeating Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist, to become president of Chile.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Road to Inca Ruins In Peru Is Blocked

LIMA (AP) — A flood caused by a landslide has blocked the train to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu, cutting the

only land route to Peru's top tourist attraction. Tourists can only reach the ruins high in the Andes mountains by taking a helicopter, which costs three times as much as the train trip, the authorities said.

Train service to Machu Picchu from the nearby city of Cuzco, 560 kilometers

(350 miles) southeast of Lima, will be suspended for at least 20 days while workers repair the track, a Transport Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Boost for Asia Tourism

SINGAPORE (AP) — Southeast Asia is still a safe place for tourists, despite negative publicity stemming from turmoil in some parts of the area, regional officials said Thursday.

Ministers from the Association of South East Asian Nations were gathering to find ways to bolster the flagging tourism business in the area. The ministers also pledged to accelerate liberalization of investment in tourism-related businesses across Southeast Asia.

U.S. students planning to spend spring break in the Caribbean resort of Cancun, Mexico, are being warned to keep their fun under control. The tourism office of Quintana Roo State is starting an ad campaign aimed at quelling "improper behavior," officials said. (AP)

A month after a tourist was fatally injured at Disneyland, the theme park

in Anaheim, California, is beginning a ride-by-ride review of how all its attractions are run. (LAT)

Cyprus Airways planes were grounded Thursday for four hours when employees went on strike to press for higher wages. (AP)

WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe				Asia			
City	Today	High	Low	City	Today	High	Low
Algeria	10/18	14/22	10/18	Algeria	14/27	24/31	10/18
Amman	10/18	14/22	10/18	Amman	14/27	24/31	10/18
Baghdad	10/18	14/22	10/18	Baghdad	14/27	24/31	10/18
Bangkok	10/18	14/22	10/18	Bangkok	14/27	24/31	10/18
Beijing	10/18	14/22	10/18	Beijing	14/27	24/31	10/18
Bombay	10/18	14/22	10/18	Bombay	14/27	24/31	10/18
Buenos Aires	10/18	14/22	10/18	Buenos Aires	14/27	24/31	10/18
Cairo	10/18	14/22	10/18	Cairo	14/27	24/31	10/18
Caracas	10/18	14/22	10/18	Caracas	14/27	24/31	10/18
Chengdu	10/18	14/22	10/18	Chengdu	14/27	24/31	10/18
Colon	10/18	14/22	10/18	Colon	14/27	24/31	10/18
Dhaka	10/18	14/22	10/18	Dhaka	14/27	24/31	10/18
Hanoi	10/18	14/22	10/18	Hanoi	14/27	24/31	10/18
Harbin	10/18	14/22	10/18	Harbin	14/27	24/31	10/18
Hong Kong	10/18	14/22	10/18	Hong Kong	14/27	24/31	10/18
Jakarta	10/18	14/22	10/18	Jakarta	14/27	24/31	10/18
Jeddah	10/18	14/22	10/18	Jeddah	14/27	24/31	10/18
Kobe	10/18	14/22	10/18	Kobe	14/27	24/31	10/18
London	10/18	14/22	10/18	London	14/27	24/31	10/18
Los Angeles	10/18	14/22	10/18	Los Angeles	14/27	24/31	10/18
Manila	10/18	14/22	10/18	Manila	14/27	24/31	10/18
Medan	10/18	14/22	10/18	Medan	14/27	24/31	10/18
Moscow	10/18	14/22	10/18	Moscow	14/27	24/31	10/18
Mumbai	10/18	14/22	10/18	Mumbai	14/27	24/31	10/18
Nairobi	10/18	14/22	10/18	Nairobi	14/27	24/31	10/18
Paris	10/18	14/22	10/18	Paris	14/27	24/31	10/18
Perth	10/18	14/22	10/18	Perth	14/27	24/31	10/18
Rangoon	10/18	14/22	10/18	Rangoon	14/27	24/31	10/18
Riyadh	10/18	14/22	10/18	Riyadh	14/27	24/31	10/18
Singapore	10/18	14/22	10/18	Singapore	14/27	24/31	10/18
Sydney	10/18	14/22	10/18	Sydney	14/27	24/31	10/18
Taipei	10/18	14/22	10/18	Taipei	14/27	24/31	10/18
Tokyo	10/18	14/22	10/18	Tokyo	14/27	24/31	10/18
Ulaanbaatar	10/18	14/22	10/18	Ulaanbaatar	14/27	24/31	10/18
Yokohama	10/18	14/22	10/18	Yokohama	14/27	24/31	10/18

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THE AMERICAS

Clinton Case Focuses On Obstruction Charge

Witnesses Were Chosen to Support That Count

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — House Republican prosecutors say they have chosen three witnesses who can help them make the broadest and strongest case that President Bill Clinton obstructed justice, the impeachment article that has drawn the most interest from senators of both parties.

When the trial started three weeks ago, the House prosecutors were sure that their best chance of convicting Mr. Clinton lay in convincing the senators that the president had lied under oath before a federal grand jury about his relationship with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

But since then, senators' squeamish about the sexual aspects of the perjury charge have focused on obstruction of justice as the article most likely to rise to the level of an impeachable offense. The question now, in many senators' minds, is "Did it happen?"

"Some of us feel very strongly about the second count, and we need witnesses to help on that," said Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon, one of the 56 senators — all but one of them Republicans — who voted Wednesday in favor of subpoenaing Ms. Lewinsky, the president's confidante Vernon Jordan Jr. and the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal.

The obstruction article charges Mr. Clinton with having encouraged Ms. Lewinsky to file a false affidavit in the sexual-misconduct lawsuit filed against the president by Paula Jones and to conceal gifts he had given Ms. Lewinsky. It contends that the president enlisted Mr. Jordan's help in finding Ms. Lewinsky a job to buy her cooperation in the Jones suit, and it accuses the president of attempting to influence the testimony of his secretary, Betty Currie, and top aides such as Mr. Blumenthal.

"The senators seem to relate the perjury charge to sex and the president's twisting definitions," said Representative Ed Bryant, Republican of Tennessee, the House manager who will question Ms. Lewinsky. "It's an easier sell job with obstruction of justice. It's about a cover-up."

Representative Asa Hutchinson, Republican of Arkansas, the manager who will interview Mr. Jordan, said, "Obstruction of justice is extraordinarily compelling and goes to the heart of our judicial system."

Under pressure from Senate Republicans, the House prosecutors pared their wish list of witnesses from 15 to five and finally to three.

In the end, they left out the one witness whom many Republicans had considered a secret weapon — Mrs. Currie — disappointing some senators who apparently believed she had the most potential to clarify factual discrepancies.

"It was a question of making judicious decisions as to which witnesses would give us the best chance to try to convert people into a vote for conviction," said Representative George Gekas, Republican of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Lewinsky is the managers' star witness and had a guaranteed spot in the lineup. But the managers shuffled and reshuffled their final two choices as they gauged both the mood of the Senate and their own analysis of which witnesses could swing wavering senators.

They decided to drop Mrs. Currie, some managers said Wednesday, because the secretary's testimony about the president's recollections of his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky seemed immovable. Mr. Clinton's lawyers have repeatedly insisted that Mrs. Currie testified that she did not feel pressured when Mr. Clinton uttered a series of statements about Ms. Lewinsky in which he claimed to Mrs. Currie that they were never alone.

House prosecutors have interpreted the president's actions as witness-tampering, saying Mr. Clinton was coaching Mrs. Currie about what to say if she were ever called as a witness.

The prosecutors also said they did not need Mrs. Currie's deposition because, in their view, Ms. Lewinsky's testimony was sufficient to support their accusations that Mr. Clinton had directed Mrs. Currie to pick up gifts that were under subpoena by the lawyers for Mrs. Jones. Privately, some said a reason Mrs. Currie was not called is that the prosecutors, already reviled in the public view according to many opinion polls, did not want to be seen as grilling a sympathetic African-American woman in the Senate.

Senate Republicans, including Susan Collins of Maine and Paul Coverdell of Georgia, expressed surprise and disappointment that the managers had decided not to summon Mrs. Currie.

Democratic senators accused the managers of disregarding their pretext

for calling witnesses — to clarify conflicting testimony.

The prosecutors opted to summon Mr. Jordan instead of Mrs. Currie to underscore what they say were Mr. Jordan's efforts, at the White House's urging, to help find Ms. Lewinsky a job in New York and buy her silence.

Finally, the managers had to choose between Mr. Blumenthal and John Podesta, the White House chief of staff, as to who would best illustrate the accusation that Mr. Clinton lied to his aides in an attempt to influence their possible testimony about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

Mr. Blumenthal told the grand jury that the president had at first described Ms. Lewinsky as a "stalker" and said she had "threatened" to tell people "they'd had an affair." Those descriptions also were used by some House prosecutors to try to prove that the White House had employed a strategy of leaks or spreading negative stories about opponents or potentially damaging witnesses.

Republicans Press On, Risking Political Damage

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans find themselves in an excruciating position, torn between the judgment of the majority of the American people and the passions of their most conservative loyalists.

A year and six days after the Monica Lewinsky story broke, President Bill Clinton got an official reprieve Wednesday, despite condemnations of his conduct. Although the Senate refused to dismiss the case against the president, not even the most vehement Clinton opponent believes 11 Democratic votes for conviction will materialize in the coming days.

But in the face of that reality, Republicans unanimously decided Wednesday to press forward with depositions from three witnesses — even though a number of Republican senators had registered reservations about that course within the last few days. Why did they feel compelled to keep going?

"One thing Republicans in the Senate can't do is throw a hand grenade at the feet of their own base," said the party consultant Ralph Reed.

But the need to assuage those conservatives comes at a growing price. With the trial's outcome now apparent, the longer it drags on, the more potential damage Republicans inflict upon themselves — both in the elections of 2000 and in the eyes of history.

As John Pitney, a professor at Claremont McKenna College in California, put it, "Right now, people think

of impeachment and Republicans in the same thought."

Nothing is likely to change that impression between now and the end of the trial.

House Republicans created this problem, but Senate Republicans are responsible for trying to solve it. And the more they attempt to accommodate the House managers — and their own conservative base — on procedural questions, the more they risk reinforcing the partisan divisions that have marked the impeachment process since it was begun in the House.

Mr. Reed said most conservatives were resigned to an outcome that leaves Mr. Clinton condemned in some fashion but still in office. "I think they're not seeking to hold Republican senators' feet to the fire on conviction, but on a display of moral courage and a fair and complete trial," he said.

But historians said Wednesday that the continued partisan divisions over whether Mr. Clinton should be impeached and convicted for his conduct in the Lewinsky matter risked stamping the whole process as a bitter political fight, not a reasoned, legal process. "It's going to be all the more difficult," said Robert Dallek, a historian and presidential biographer, "for historians to take the Republican argument about the rule of law all that seriously."

Pointing to the dismissal vote Wednesday, he added: "Is it conceivable that all but one Democrat, Wisconsin Senator Russell Feingold, were on the wrong side of the rule of law and all the Republicans were on the right side of the rule of law? It just doesn't measure up."

The historian Michael Beschloss agreed that the party-line vote on dismissal, which may foreshadow a largely partisan division on conviction or acquittal at the trial's end, had made it more difficult for historians of the future to judge the impeachment of Mr. Clinton as entirely legitimate.

"It makes it tougher for the impeachment and the trial to look good before the bar of history," he said Wednesday.

Mr. Beschloss said it was far from clear how history would judge the past year. "Will they say Bill Clinton was unfairly persecuted or will they say this was a case where Republicans in the House and Senate stood up for a matter of principle that was against their political interests?" he asked.

It is possible, perhaps even likely, that a few Republicans will vote against convicting Mr. Clinton on the two articles of impeachment when the Senate finally votes. But that may be more helpful to the defenders and their own political standing than to the party as a whole.

Many Democratic strategists have long sensed that the House vote to impeach Mr. Clinton presented Democrats with a win-win situation. They argue that a short Senate trial leading to Mr. Clinton's acquittal would undermine the legitimacy of the House vote. But a long Senate trial, they said, could damage the Republicans even more than events already have.

To some analysts, the Republicans' decision to depose witnesses represents the further isolation of congressional Republicans, who have been driven by the party's ideological hard-liners since the party took power in the 1994 elections.

Many Republican governors, while condemning the president's conduct, have warned for weeks that the Senate should find a quick way to end the trial. The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, has labored mightily to satisfy his divided party. The question is whether his efforts to reach across party lines on procedural issues will be washed away by mostly party-line votes on the key issues.

The challenge for Mr. Lott and other Republican leaders is clear. Having corralled moderate Republican votes to compel the testimony of Ms. Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal to satisfy the party's ideological wing, they must now engineer a conclusion that restores the confidence of the American people that the party is listening to them as well.

Democrats have continued to work on the language of a censure resolution, which would condemn the president's conduct while avoiding legally charged words like "guilt" or "convict."

"I think there is a widespread feeling on both sides of the aisle that some expression of the inappropriateness of the behavior is a good idea," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky.

Mr. Lockhart conceded that the Republicans' 55-to-45 majority in the upper chamber would allow them to pursue the two-vote strategy if they chose. A simple majority of 51 votes would be required to approve such an approach. Sixty-seven votes are needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office if all 100 senators are present.

The White House took heart at the Senate vote Wednesday on dismissal of the trial, which was defeated, 56-to-44, but showed that Republicans had virtually no chance of attaining the two-thirds vote needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office.

White House lawyers are deeply concerned, however, about the possibility that the president might be tarred with something resembling a criminal conviction for perjury and obstruction of justice, particularly since he will be vulnerable to criminal prosecution once he leaves office.

A proposal along these lines was advanced by Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, who is part of a small working group appointed by Mr. Lott to seek ways in which senators can express their condemnation of Mr. Clinton short of removing him from office.

A Democratic senator, Richard Bryan of Nevada, said such a vote would seem to skirt the constitution. "We should not be able to do by majority vote what the constitution contemplates by a two-thirds vote," he said.

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, a Republican and the influential chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on Thursday strongly supported a "finding of fact" vote. "I've been arguing for that type of a vote for a long time," he said. "I think that's a legitimate, reasonable thing to do."



Democratic senators lining up to speak to reporters outside the Senate's chambers after the vote to call witnesses in the Clinton impeachment trial. From left are Max Baucus of Montana, Charles Schumer of New York, Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

POLITICAL NOTES

Bush Is Still Sitting Firmly on the Fence

AUSTIN, Texas — Governor George Bush, who has sometimes expressed discomfort with the relentless speculation over whether he will run for president in 2000, brought the matter up himself in his State of the State address, saying legislators should seize this "national spotlight" to teach Washington lawmakers a thing or two.

"I have been asked about it, you have been asked about it," Mr. Bush told the legislators. "You didn't ask for it, but it is here anyway."

"And we can either view it as a distraction or seize it as an opportunity to show the world what limited and constructive government looks like."

The 31 members of the state Senate, which the Republicans control by one vote, joined the 150 members of the House of Representatives, where the Democrats have an eight-vote majority, to hear Mr. Bush.

Widely regarded as the front-runner in the race for the Republican presidential nomination next year, the governor has said he will not announce whether he will run until March or April, when he will either establish an exploratory committee, say he is definitely in the race or take himself out of it.

Mr. Bush has played host in recent weeks to a stream of potential fund-raisers and presidential advisers — to help him make up his mind, he has said — and political professionals in several states have said he has asked them not to commit to another Republican candidate until he makes his decision.

"People keep asking me, will I or won't I?" he said Wednesday. "The big answer to the question is, I really don't know yet." (NTT)

Help for Workers

WASHINGTON — Aiming to improve workers' skills, President Bill Clinton is proposing \$965 million in new and increased spending to retrain dislocated workers, teach illiterate adults to read and increase job opportunities for at-risk youth.

The latest details from the budget that Mr. Clinton outlined in his State of the Union address include increased grants for adult literacy programs, a toll-free number that connects displaced workers to unemployment and retraining resources and \$50 million to create jobs for disadvantaged youngsters.

The proposals call for \$190 million in increased spending in fiscal 2000 over last year's figures for adult education and family literacy programs, \$368 million more for job retraining assistance and \$405 million to increase youth employment. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Paul Begala, a White House adviser, reacting to a suggestion that Republican senators owed it to their House colleagues not to dismiss the impeachment case: "That's like saying the Titanic owed something to the iceberg." (WP)

CLINTON: Senate Continues Jousting on Trial Timetable

Continued from Page 1

very political way, is construct a procedure where they can convict the president but not remove him," said the White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart. He added, "The constitution is clear: The Senate has one role, which is to convict and remove" or to acquit.

With strong Republican support for a final outcome that will not allow Mr. Clinton to claim exoneration or vindication, it was unclear how the matter would be resolved.

The nearly party-line margin during two votes Wednesday made it clear that there was virtually no chance Mr. Clinton would be removed from office.

Mr. Lockhart also denied a New York Times report that a split had emerged among Mr. Clinton's legal team over how vigorously to press the defense strategy at a time when the endgame was clearly in sight.

Mr. Lott and his Democratic counterpart, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, along with other Senate leaders have been locked in a series of meetings, hammering out proposals to conclude the trial by mid-February.

Mr. Lott said Democrats did not want videotapes to be made of the depositions of Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose sexual relationship with the president sparked impeachment; Vernon Jordan Jr., the Washington attorney and Clinton friend who tried to help Ms. Lewinsky find a job, and Sidney Blumenthal, a White House adviser.

The depositions will involve sworn testimony by the three before House "managers" prosecuting the case, members of Mr. Clinton's legal team and one senator from each party.

Democrats, who have strenuously opposed the calling of any witnesses, presumably were concerned that in the event of unfavorable testimony, videotapes would have a greater impact on senators than written transcripts.

The Senate voted Wednesday not to dismiss the trial but to call the three witnesses. Those votes, almost precisely on party lines, left the Senate unsure exactly how to proceed with the questioning of witnesses, the form in which their testimony will be presented to senators and what additional votes will be taken.

White House lawyers had told Mr. Daschle that they would accept an accelerated trial schedule if no damaging new information emerged from the three witnesses and if there is no live testimony before the Senate, senior presidential advisers told The Associated Press.

The Clinton team reportedly wants to reserve an opportunity to review documents and possibly call its own witnesses in the event of surprises.

Mr. Lockhart said that Republican proposals to vote,

separately on Mr. Clinton's guilt regarding the charges facing him and whether to remove him from office were unacceptable.

Republicans, however, appeared unwilling to accept a trial plan that does not give them the opportunity to express a view on Mr. Clinton's guilt in first denying and then misrepresenting his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

They fear that there is no certainty to a vote on censure that would come after Mr. Clinton's expected acquittal. A censure, in any case, could be reversed by a future Senate.

Democrats have continued to work on the language of a censure resolution, which would condemn the president's conduct while avoiding legally charged words like "guilt" or "convict."

"I think there is a widespread feeling on both sides of the aisle that some expression of the inappropriateness of the behavior is a good idea," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky.

Mr. Lockhart conceded that the Republicans' 55-to-45 majority in the upper chamber would allow them to pursue the two-vote strategy if they chose. A simple majority of 51 votes would be required to approve such an approach. Sixty-seven votes are needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office if all 100 senators are present.

The White House took heart at the Senate vote Wednesday on dismissal of the trial, which was defeated, 56-to-44, but showed that Republicans had virtually no chance of attaining the two-thirds vote needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office.

White House lawyers are deeply concerned, however, about the possibility that the president might be tarred with something resembling a criminal conviction for perjury and obstruction of justice, particularly since he will be vulnerable to criminal prosecution once he leaves office.

A proposal along these lines was advanced by Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, who is part of a small working group appointed by Mr. Lott to seek ways in which senators can express their condemnation of Mr. Clinton short of removing him from office.

A Democratic senator, Richard Bryan of Nevada, said such a vote would seem to skirt the constitution. "We should not be able to do by majority vote what the constitution contemplates by a two-thirds vote," he said.

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, a Republican and the influential chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on Thursday strongly supported a "finding of fact" vote. "I've been arguing for that type of a vote for a long time," he said. "I think that's a legitimate, reasonable thing to do."

Man With Explosives Is Arrested at Senate

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A Maryland man with tickets to the Senate impeachment trial was arrested last week when he tried to bring a bag containing an 18-inch knife and two explosives into the Capitol, according to authorities.

Capitol police stopped Walter Wilson Johnson, 36, on Jan. 20 when they checked the bag on an X-ray machine, officials said Wednesday. At the time, President Bill Clinton's lawyers, led by his special counsel Gregory Craig, were presenting their second day of opening arguments before a crowded Senate chamber. Mr. Johnson told the police he kept the knife for "protection," authorities said.

Capitol police said a search of Mr. Johnson's bag also turned up two M-60 explosive devices, a "terrorist handbook," weapons price lists, an article on the Oklahoma City bombing, survivalist materials and a Soldier of Fortune magazine.

Away From Politics

• Training quality-of-life sights on New York dogs. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has announced plans to increase fines for harboring dogs found to be dangerous, to deny dogs any consideration for being provoked into barking or biting and to require owners of pit bulls to obtain \$100,000 in liability insurance. (NYT)

• Damage suits against the handgun industry were filed by Miami and Dade County, Florida, and by Bridgeport, Connecticut. They joined a campaign to hold gun makers responsible for costs of crimes committed with guns. (LAT)

• Zapping a laser pointer at motorists is now against the law in San Ramon, California. The new ordinance also limits minors' access to the pointers. (AP)

• Clemency was rejected for an inmate scheduled to be executed next week in McAlester, Oklahoma, for three slayings he committed as a 16-year-old. (AP)

Bob Edwards in Edinburgh?

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The Authority is looking for a private sector organisation to undertake the provision of janitorial service for the Northwest Concourse of the Passenger Terminal Building scheduled to open in mid 1999. The contract term will be either three or four and a half year, it is estimated that a total of 44,300m² of floor area, and related wall finishes, roofing, fixtures, fittings and equipment, will require to be serviced.

The Authority is looking for a substantial janitorial service organisation to undertake this contract. Parties interested in this opportunity can register with the Authority, in writing, for an Expression of Interest Document. This document asks a series of questions, responses to which must be received by 1 p.m. on 26 February 1999. Late returns will not be considered. Responses will be evaluated in order to draw up a short list of potential contractors. To receive a copy of the Expression of Interest Document, please contact:

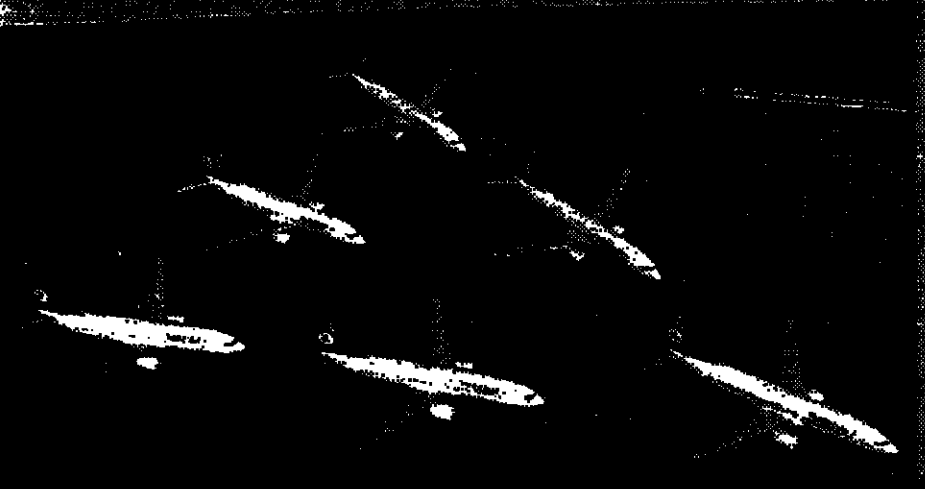
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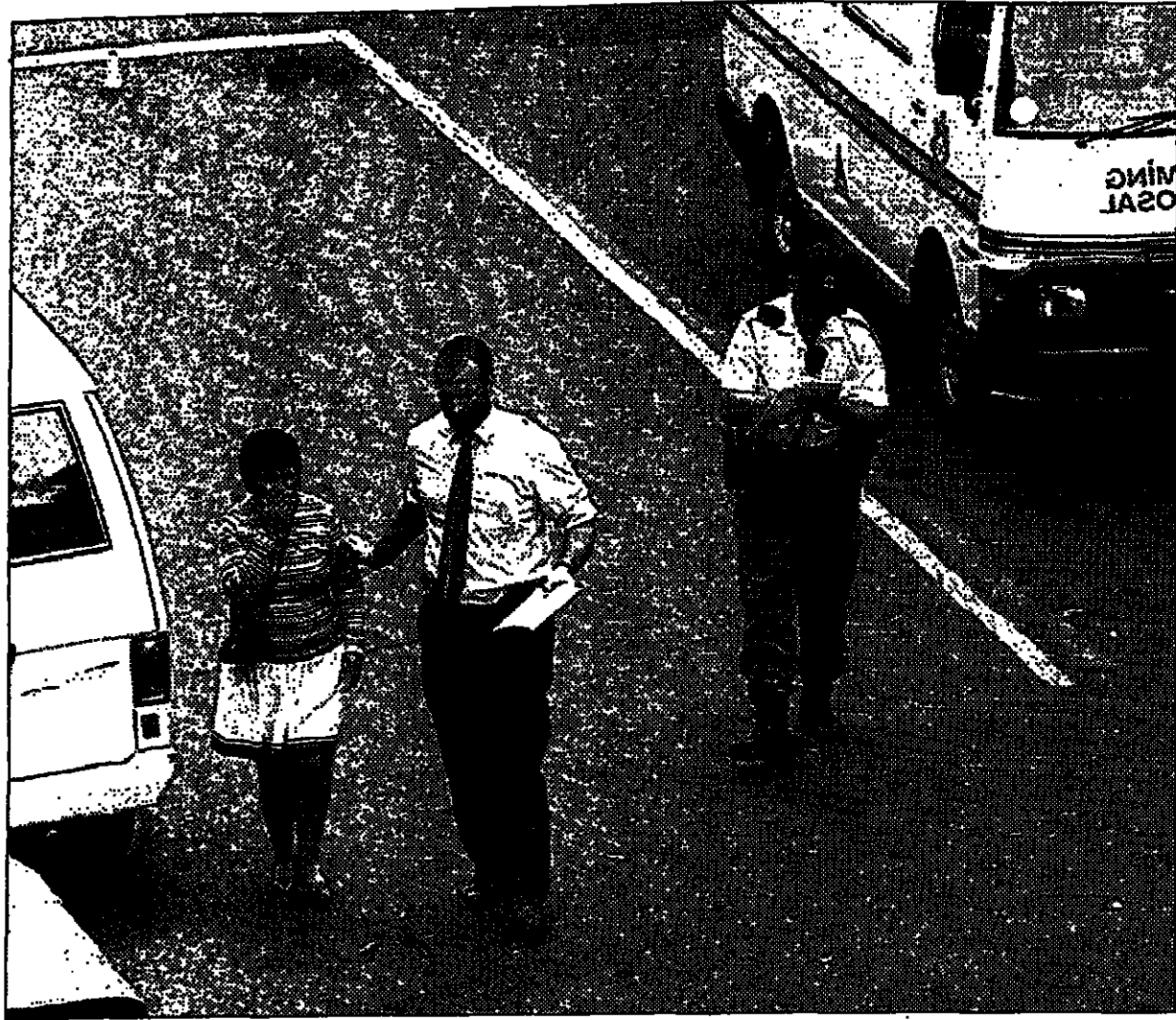


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INTERNATIONAL



Police officers in Cape Town escorting a passer-by shaken by a bomb explosion near the main police station.

Bomb in Central Cape Town Wounds 11

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — The third bomb in five months went off in central Cape Town on Thursday, wounding 11 people at the entrance to the city's main police station.

No one took responsibility for the explosion, which the police tentatively said involved a pipe bomb left in a garbage can. The police said they were questioning two people, whom they did not identify.

Four of the injured, none of them police officers, had serious burns or shrapnel wounds from the blast, which took place just after 1 P.M. outside the Caledon Square station.

Blue shreds of the garbage can littered the street next to a shattered green Volkswagen, and blood was spattered around the area, local news services reported.

Cape Town is in the grip of a three-way war involving the police, gangs of criminals and conservative Muslim vigilantes.

Both the gangs, which are rich with drug money, and the vigilantes are based in the huge mixed-race Cape Flats neighborhoods outside the central city, near the airport.

The vigilantes, most prominently an imam-led group calling itself People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, are suspected of setting many bombs to kill drug dealers and police officers.

They are also suspected of the two major blasts in a tourist area, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

The first exploded in a crowded Planet Hollywood restaurant on Aug. 25, killing two people and wounding 25. It was presumably a form of retaliation against the United States, which had just fired cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan into suspected terrorist sites.

The second, on Jan. 2, blew up cars outside a theater that was to show "The Siege," an American film in which the villains are Muslim fundamentalist terrorists.

No one has been charged in the blasts, but the police said the two bombs and those used against drug dealers and police substations had design similarities.

The police have been trying hard to infiltrate the vigilante group, with little apparent success. Last year, a police captain who was heading one of the investigations was shot and killed in his car by several gunmen after he stopped to help a motorist.

Blaming the vigilantes for that killing, the police and government announced Operation Good Hope, a joint police-army operation to restore law and order to the Cape Town area.

Local news commentators said the blast Thursday appeared to be intended as a response to that operation.

Pope Condemns Death Penalty

Citing Appeal, Missouri's Governor Commutes a Killer's Sentence

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ST. LOUIS, Missouri — Preaching consistency in moral values, Pope John Paul II urged American Catholics to extend the crusade to protect human life to include murderers on death row.

"The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life," the Pope preached to 100,000 people in the Trans World Sports Dome, a football stadium. "Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."

He called the death penalty "cruel and unnecessary," even in the case of a criminal who "has done great evil."

The Pope has often urged an end to the death penalty, but his speech Wednesday was the most explicit statement against capital punishment he has made in the United States.

Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri on Thursday commuted the death sentence of a convicted murderer to life without parole, citing a personal plea by the Pope. The Associated Press reported.

"I continue to support capital punishment, but after careful consideration

of his direct and personal appeal and because of a deep and abiding respect for the plaintiff and all he represents, I decided last night to grant his request," he said.

(Darrell Mease, convicted of murdering a drug partner and two others in southwestern Missouri in 1988, had been scheduled to die Wednesday. His execution was postponed in December by the Missouri Supreme Court, apparently because of the Pope's visit to St. Louis, which ended Wednesday.)

At the Mass on Wednesday, some in the audience expressed deep reverence for the Pope but disagreement with his teachings on capital punishment.

"I am here because I really believe," said Araminta Rincon, a translator who had arrived at the site at 3 A.M. from Green Bay, Wisconsin. "I am a believing Catholic, and I love this Pope." But she, like others, said she also believed in the death penalty. "In some ways, it's very sad. But there is no other way — some people are just very, very bad."

This 30-hour stop was the 78-year-old Pope's fifth pastoral visit to the United States, and once again, he found himself confronting one of the chief frustrations of his papacy: Many American Catholics display a stubborn independence from Vatican teaching.

The Pope, who stopped in St. Louis after an episcopal meeting in Mexico to instruct North Americans about their responsibility to the world in the new millennium, also had to remind Catholics to heed the basic tenets of their faith.

In his homily, the Pope mentioned some of the moral issues that divide Americans and many Catholics elsewhere.

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love?" he asked.

In visiting St. Louis, the Pope chose a metropolitan area that is close to 55 percent Catholic.

But his message was also aimed at the nation at large, and before leaving St. Louis on Wednesday night, he held an evening prayer service at the St. Louis Cathedral for about 2,000 people, including Vice President Al Gore and Representative Dick Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri, and their wives.

The Pope told his audience that as the only superpower, the United States was a model for the rest of the world.

"Radical change in world politics leaves America with a heightened responsibility to be for the world an example of a genuinely free, democratic, just and humane society," he said.

John Paul II, who was the first Pope to apologize openly for the failure of many Catholics to resist the Nazi policy of exterminating Jews during World War II, has tried to make ecumenism and reconciliation with the Jews a hallmark of his papacy. A rabbi, Robert A. Taft, executive vice president of the St. Louis rabbinical association, gave a biblical reading about a prophecy of the renewal of Zion at the vespers service, giving the opening in Hebrew. The Pope has visited synagogues and prayed with rabbis at interfaith services, but this was the first time a rabbi had given a reading at a Catholic service officiated by the Pope.

After vespers, the Pope walked out of the basilica and shook hands with Rosa Parks, the civil-rights heroine of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott in 1955. Mrs. Parks, who will turn 86 in February, rose from her wheelchair to shake the Pope's hand.

The ailing Pope, whose voice is slurred as the result of Parkinson's disease, was at times difficult to understand. At the football stadium, giant screens included captioned text of his remarks. He seemed buoyed by the enthusiasm of his audiences, but outside, the fervor at times melted away. Though there were some areas where the crowds were six people deep, other sidewalks along his parade route were empty.

Israel Names Security Chief

Challengers Assail Netanyahu for Creating Council

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Thursday announced the formation of a National Security Council headed by a former Defense Ministry director, David Ivry.

"The national security adviser will increase and tighten coordination and cooperation between government offices in national security issues," Mr. Netanyahu said.

He said Mr. Ivry, 64, a former chief of the air force, would help develop national security policy that integrates military, strategic, intelligence and economic affairs. He said the new council would report to the prime minister.

Mr. Netanyahu's move was attacked by his two main challengers in the May general election, Ehud Barak and the former defense minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, as creating unnecessary bureaucracy.

"Where is the logic to setting up a

National Security Council four months before the elections?" Mr. Mordechai, who was dismissed by Mr. Netanyahu last week for plotting a political challenge to the prime minister, told Israel Radio.

As defense minister, Mr. Mordechai had opposed the step, saying existing security forums were adequate.

"The National Security Council is a vital function for the security of the nation," Mr. Netanyahu said at a press conference.

"The council will examine geopolitical, economic, technological and communications interests, all of which are directly related to the security of the state," he said.

Another goal will be to strengthen Israeli-U.S. cooperation in countering the development of missiles and non-conventional weapons in the region in line with a strategic accord signed between the two countries late last year, he said. (Reuters, AFP)

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EUROPE

Cruel Ulster Beatings Strain Peace Accord

Acts of Revenge Imperil Prisoner Releases

By T. R. Reid
Washington Post Service

LONDON — The springtime of peace that brought hope to Northern Ireland last year has deteriorated into a winter of brutal beatings and violent death, putting serious strains on the peace process and tarnishing the greatest political achievement of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Mr. Blair bristled on the floor of Parliament on Wednesday as he struggled to respond to opposition leaders — and a few members of his own Labour Party — who said it was time for the government to crack down on the sectarian street armies believed to be responsible for a recent outbreak of what are called "punishment beatings."

As part of the Good Friday agreement last year, intended to end three decades of conflict in the British province, Prime Minister Blair's government has been granting early release to prisoners in Northern Ireland jails, including several members of Roman Catholic and Protestant paramilitary groups who had been serving life terms for murder.

For their part, the paramilitary groups are required by the agreement to honor a

cease-fire and a pledge of nonviolence.

With some cruel exceptions, this trade-off has served to preserve a general state of peace among the 1.6 million residents of Northern Ireland.

But this winter, a wet, cold and generally dismal time of year in the province, has brought a series of attacks in which armed squads have assaulted individuals with guns, baseball bats or iron tools, often breaking bones. Some of the victims have bled to death. Others have been crippled or blinded.

On Wednesday, the police found the battered corpse of Eamon Collins, a former member of the Irish Republican Army, the predominantly Catholic guerrilla group that advocates an end to British rule in Northern Ireland and union with the Irish Republic.

Mr. Collins broke with the IRA and wrote a book, "Killing Rage," detailing its violent practices.

The police had no immediate explanation for Mr. Collins's death, but the victim said many times that he had been targeted for retribution by the IRA.

This has prompted Mr. Blair's opponents to say that his program of prisoner releases is a mistake and should be stopped. Traditionally, Britain's major political parties have buried their dif-



Mary Quinn, a resident of Dungannon, Northern Ireland, surveying a hole in her window caused Thursday by a hurled pipe bomb that did not explode. Authorities attributed the bomb to a wave of sectarian violence.

ferences on Northern Ireland.

But the winter of violence sparked a long, tough and clearly partisan debate in the House of Commons. "Every time Blair releases another prisoner early, he throws away another negotiating card," said William Hague, leader of the opposition Conservative Party.

Other Conservatives said that halting the release of prisoners would put pres-

sure on the paramilitary groups to stop the violence.

Mr. Blair was clearly rattled by the accusation and angry that Northern Ireland was being debated at all.

"What I would ask some of the honorable members opposite, who are shouting 'Disgrace!' and 'Shame!' at me, is to recognize the difficulty of this process," Mr. Blair retorted. "When they were in

government, we gave them support in difficult as well as easy times."

The prime minister noted that the number of punishment beatings this winter was no greater than in previous years. To stop the prisoner releases might destroy the overall agreement, he said, and "bring this whole process to an end."

But even within his own party, which normally shows impressive political discipline, Mr. Blair is facing opposition on the prisoner releases.

Another burst of beatings or killings — particularly now, with the political world and the media watching closely — could force the prime minister to make major changes in his approach to peace in Northern Ireland.

■ Ulster Official Accuses IRA

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's first minister, accused the Irish Republican Army on Thursday of murdering Mr. Collins, saying it had again broken its cease-fire. Agence France-Presse reported from Belfast.

"I think it's fairly clear who murdered Mr. Collins," he said. "Presumably, the same people who burned his house and tried to run him over — the IRA."

The Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams, described Mr. Collins's murder as "regrettable," but he noted that the dead man had "many enemies in many places."

There was condemnation from Dublin, along with a plea not to let the murder thwart the peace accord.

BRIEFLY

Schroeder Admits Slips in '100 Days'

BONN — Faced with accusations of a chaotic governing style, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder acknowledged Thursday that he had set too hasty a pace in his first 100 days in office.

Mr. Schröder's remarks, made during an interview, followed his center-left government's reversal this week on a timetable for abandoning nuclear power as well as earlier slips on issues of tax reform and social policy.

"We set a high tempo — sometimes too high a tempo — at the start in areas that were especially important to the coalition partners," Mr. Schröder was quoted as telling Der Tagesspiegel.

A liberal weekly, Die Zeit, scathingly summed up Mr. Schröder's record under a headline, "One hundred weak days." (AP)

Spain and Britain In Fishing Quarrel

MADRID — Tensions between Spain and Britain mounted on Thursday in a fishing dispute off Gibraltar as diplomats scrambled to find a compromise and fishermen threatened to block the border to the British colony.

The Spanish government gave London a 72-hour ultimatum, which expires Saturday, to publicly affirm a verbal agreement made last October between the two nations on fishing rights or it would take unspecified action.

The latest tension comes after British and Gibraltar police seized a Spanish fishing boat Wednesday for illegally fishing with nets in Gibraltar waters. (Reuters)

Islam in Politics Worrying Ankara

ANKARA — Seeking to stop political parties from using religion in the campaign for April 18 elections, military leaders of Turkey conferred Thursday with government officials.

The military and the secular establishment worry that the Islamic Virtue Party, the largest party, will emerge a winner. (AP)

In Europe's Arctic Zone, the Freeze of the Century

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

OSLO — The northern fringe of Europe suffered its coldest weather of the century Thursday, and some Arctic regions of Russia have been gripped by a deep freeze as well.

In the Arctic stretches of Finland, Norway and Sweden, temperatures dipped under minus 51 centigrade (minus 60 Fahrenheit) Thursday.

That is too cold for mercury thermometers, which freeze at minus 39 centigrade (minus 38 Fahrenheit) and requires the use of alcohol-based thermometers.

At those temperatures, warm water tossed into the air outdoors will freeze before it hits the ground, as a Norwegian television station demonstrated for its report on the cold weather.

Northern Finland set a new national record for the second day in a row when the temperature fell to minus 51.5 cen-

tigrade (minus 60.7 Fahrenheit) during the night in the town of Polka. It was slightly warmer in the Norwegian town of Karasjok, with an overnight low of minus 51.2 centigrade (minus 60.2 Fahrenheit), just shy of Norway's record cold of minus 51.4 centigrade (minus 60.5 Fahrenheit) set in January 1886.

"This is a record for the century," said Sigrid Naess, who monitors the official temperature in Karasjok, a town in Finnmark Province, Norway. "You just have to dress warm and build a fire in the fireplace."

Electric power failed in many towns in Arctic provinces, leaving people shivering inside their homes, although virtually all homes also have fireplaces or other forms of heating.

Alfred Jacobsen, 86, measured freezing temperatures indoors because his house in Melhamn, Norway, was with-

out power. "It was full winter inside," he was quoted as telling the Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang.

In Finnish Lapland, about 5,000 people lost their electricity because power lines could not withstand the cold. "The metal power lines simply stretched and snapped under the pressure" from the cold, said Arto Miettinen, of the regional power company.

Compared to Norway and Finland, the night's low for northern Sweden was a relatively balmy minus 48.7 C (minus 55.7 Fahrenheit) in the town of Valkeakoski.

That was still cold enough to stop passenger trains in northern Sweden, since the air brakes used to stop them do not work at such low temperatures. Because air contracts in the cold, at extremely low temperatures there is not enough pressure to push the brakes.

The cold snap, which may last

through the weekend, was brought on by cold air coming from Siberian regions of Russia. News reports said temperatures as low as minus 55.6 centigrade (minus 68 Fahrenheit) were recorded in Siberia this week.

The Russian Weather Service said the deep chill was unusually long. "It's one thing to cope for a day when it's minus 50 outside, but it's a different thing altogether to spend several days in a row like that," a meteorologist said.

In some parts of the Kola Peninsula near Russia's border with Norway, the temperature fell at night to almost minus 56 centigrade (minus 69 Fahrenheit) in one village this week — the lowest in more than 100 years.

The meteorologist said a cyclone was bringing warmer weather and that temperatures would rise slightly Thursday and Friday as the cold front headed toward Western Europe. (AP/Reuters)

ASIA/PACIFIC

Electoral Reforms Win Approval in Indonesia

Parliament Dismantles Old Political System

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — The Parliament approved political reforms Thursday for what is expected to be the most open election in Indonesia in four decades.

After weeks of negotiations and last minute deal-making, the legislature unanimously passed three bills that will largely dismantle the tightly controlled political system that had backed former President Suharto's authoritarian rule since the early 1970s.

"Agreed," shouted lawmakers after Lieutenant General Hari Subarno, deputy speaker of Parliament and head of its armed forces faction, asked them if they approved the bills. Many stood and applauded.

Jakarta's Army Yields to Shift On East Timor

Agence France-Presse

JAKARTA — The military is ready to comply with the "will of the people," if they want East Timor to be separated from Indonesia, the armed forces chief, General Wiranto, said Thursday.

His comments followed an acknowledgment by the government Wednesday that it was prepared to grant East Timor independence.

The military would accept the people's wishes despite what he termed great sacrifices made and losses of life incurred by the Indonesian government and the military, General Wiranto said at the presidential palace.

"If it is decided that East Timor is no longer part of Indonesia, of course we will comply with it," he said.

Private estimates have said the Indonesian armed forces lost about 20,000 men in the battle to take East Timor, which was invaded in 1975 after the colonial power, Portugal, left. Some influential military officers now say no further effort should be made to hang on to the territory.

General Wiranto defended Indonesia's annexation of the territory, saying it had been for the sake of the local people.

"The East Timor integration was not a political mistake," he said. "It was not a wrong decision but one that was very right at the time it was taken. It was intended to save the East Timorese from greater bloodshed after Portugal unilaterally abandoned the territory." Indonesia declared East Timor its 27th province in 1976.

"We want to restate the government's promise to organize a fair and open election at whatever cost because this is the only way to create a credible government," said Lieutenant General Syarwan Hamid, who is the home affairs minister.

B.J. Habibie, who replaced President Suharto after riots and protests last May, has scheduled parliamentary elections on June 7.

He says the ballot, expected to be the freest since 1955, will be democratic. Critics, however, say the changes, which reduce but do not abolish a political role for the powerful military, do not go far enough.

During Mr. Suharto's rule, the Parliament had been largely a rubber stamp institution stacked with his supporters and friends.

Under the new laws, elections, which had been limited by Mr. Suharto to only three heavily regulated parties, will be opened up to a wide range of groups as long as they do not promote racial or religious problems and conform to a list of other broad requirements.

More than 4 million state employees, whom Mr. Suharto forced to vote for his ruling Golkar Party, will be banned from membership in political parties. Mr. Habibie has said that political neutrality is essential in the state bureaucracy.

The military, which now holds 75 nonelected seats in the Parliament, will have its representation reduced to 38.

Once elected, the Parliament along with 200 government appointees will form a People's Consultative Assembly.

As the nation's highest legislative body, the assembly will vote for a president this year.

The role of the military in politics is increasingly controversial. Opposition figures not in Parliament had wanted to reduce the number of appointed military seats to 15 with the aim of eventually banishing the armed forces from the legislature.

Many Indonesians resent the military, which is trying to revamp its tarnished image as a human rights violator and is struggling to contain a wave of riots and protests that has hit Indonesia in the past year.

The nation's military chief, General Wiranto, has pledged that the armed forces would remain neutral during the election. Under Indonesian law, members of the military are prohibited from voting in elections.

In Yogyakarta on Thursday, about 100 students demonstrated against the military's role in politics and burned an effigy clad in military fatigues.



Pakistan's captain, Wasim Akram, left, and India's Mohammad Azharuddin, shaking hands after the toss on the cricket pitch Thursday.

Now, Cricket Diplomacy India and Pakistan in First Series in Years

Reuters

MADRAS, India — Mounted police and paramilitary troops stood guard on Thursday as India and Pakistan began their first test cricket series on Indian soil in more than a decade.

The match has been overshadowed by threats from Hindu extremists, but the mood eased last week after the Shiv Sena Party withdrew its vow to disrupt the tour.

And on Thursday, the rivalry was good-natured as fans lined up to get past metal detectors for the inaugural three-day match at Chidambaram Stadium.

Pakistan had 238 runs, and India then went to bat. The match will resume Friday.

More than 3,000 policemen and 600 reservists were deployed around the stadium and inside the 14 stands, said a senior police official who asked not to be identified. "We expect absolutely no trouble," he added.

The government of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where Madras is situated, declared Thursday a public holiday.

At least 25,000 tickets were sold for the first test match, stadium authorities said.

The sites of the two-test series were changed after Shiv Sena activists dug up the Delhi cricket pitch, forcing the first test to move to Madras.

Shiv Sena has blocked Pakistani cricketers at least twice in the last de-

cade with threats, saying that the two countries should not be playing cricket while Indian soldiers die in clashes at the border with Pakistan.

But authorities in the two countries, believing that sporting links can improve relations, came together to put pressure on Shiv Sena last week to withdraw its threat.

Pakistan won one test and the four other tests were drawn in 1987 during an Indian tour. India and Pakistan last played each other in test matches in 1989 and 1990 in Pakistan, when all four tests were drawn.

That last tour coincided with the start of a rebellion against Indian rule in Kashmir, the Himalayan valley over which the two countries have fought two wars since 1947, the year when they won independence from Britain, the home of cricket.

In the latest clashes, India said Wednesday that five Pakistani soldiers had been killed in a border clash at the Siachen glacier in the disputed region.

Conflict aside, cricket is played and followed with passion on both sides of the border.

"The pressure is totally different," the Times of India quoted the Pakistani captain, Wasim Akram, as having said about playing India. "It's more than a game here. When you win, you are up there. When you lose, you are down there."

"So when we go back, that's the way we are treated."

BRIEFLY

No Hostages in Philippines

MANILA — President Joseph Estrada said Thursday that the situation in the southern Mindanao region was under control and that reports that Muslim rebels had taken schoolchildren and teachers hostage were false.

"There are soldiers in the school," Mr. Estrada said in Manila after local radio stations reported that scores of students and teachers had been taken hostage in the school near Cotabato City on Mindanao, about 900 kilometers (560 miles) south of Manila. He said the students had taken refuge in the building after an exchange of fire between soldiers and the rebels.

There were conflicting reports that troops and rebels were still facing off in the area although the fighting appeared to have died down, military sources said.

The clash came despite a new cease-fire agreed to by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Force, the main group fighting for an independent Muslim homeland in the south.

There were no reports of casualties. (Reuters)

India Sets Slaying Inquiry

NEW DELHI — India's cabinet decided Thurs-

day to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the weekend murder of an Australian Christian missionary and his two sons, officials said.

Defense Minister George Fernandes said the decision was made after he and two other ministers visited the eastern state of Orissa, where the missionary, Graham Staines, and his two sons were burned to death on Saturday as they slept in their jeep.

The investigating commission will be headed by a sitting supreme court judge.

Mr. Staines had spent years in remote areas helping lepers and the poor. (Reuters)

Taipei Affirms Skopje Tie

TAIPEI — Taiwan insisted on Thursday that new diplomatic ties with Macedonia were firm despite confusion in the Balkan country over whether its government recognized Taipei or Beijing.

Taiwan's foreign minister, Jason Hu, and his Macedonian counterpart, Alexander Dimitrov, signed a pact on relations in Taipei on Wednesday, but Macedonia's president, Kiro Gligorov, later called the deal "a surprise."

Mr. Gligorov met Wednesday with China's ambassador in the capital, Skopje, and said that Macedonia still recognized Beijing as "the only legitimate representative of the Chinese people." (AP)

Seoul Students Want U.S. Out

SEOUL — Hundreds of militant students, shouting for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, staged violent protests in Seoul and three other cities Thursday, the police and news reports said.

Several students were reported injured but none of them seriously.

Protests in Seoul turned violent when 600 students, throwing rocks, clashed with the police. They burned a U.S. flag and an effigy of President Bill Clinton. One student was slightly injured in the capital. (AP)

For the Record

Two North Korean defectors arrived in Seoul separately on Thursday to seek political asylum. South Korea's intelligence agency and state radio said, bringing the number of such defectors this month to 17. (Reuters)

Seeking to halt a flu outbreak that has claimed a reported 25 lives this month, Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare is warning nursing homes to begin vaccinating residents against the virus, a ministry official Thursday. (AP)

OPINION/LETTERS

Europe Is No Slacker In the Art of Scandal

By William Safire

LONDON — Americans are afflicted with the notion that we should be embarrassed by the Clinton impeachment follies.

We think that sophisticated Europe is going to sit at our seeming constitutional instability and risk-ask at our obsession with what Dale Gribble brushed off as a mere "sex scandal."

Cut the blushing. Eurocorruption is busting out all over. Never have so many taken so much so blatantly.

Here in Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair's eminence grise, a smooth manipulator of public opinion named Peter Mandelson, was found to have secretly taken a half-million-dollar loan, before the election, from a member of Parliament who then became a cabinet minister and came under investigation by Mr. Mandelson's department.

This illicit arrangement, giving new meaning to what is known here as "the third way," caused much red-faced New Labour bumbling and spun the spin-meister out of his job.

In Brussels, a score of the faceless commissioners of the European Union were nearly sacked when an anti-fraud squad of the European Parliament found cronyism and evidence of rigged bids and embezzlement rampant in the management of hu-

manitarian funds. Sticky-fingered bureaucrats who believed that humanitarianism began at home may soon face a new force: an independent counsel.

And how about that money-grubbing International Olympic Committee? A new gold medal for kickbacks has been struck at IOC headquarters in Lausanne. Competition in the 500-meter shakedown was discovered in Salt Lake City and spread to Sydney, and to Nagano, Japan, where records of the corrupt bidding were consigned to the flames.

Ringleader of the five Olympic rings is Juan Antonio Samaranch, who built the Olympics into a billion-dollar business. As investigators in sucker cities close in on the center of extortion, this grumpy geezer maintains he was merely blind to the high living of his age.

Urgently needed is a high-integrity replacement beholden to the old regime, such as Sir Roger Bannister, the eminent neurologist, who in his youth was first to break the four-minute mile.

Even when they're not venal, Europe's honchos of hubris are making history. The judge who cast the swing vote to turn over General Augusto Pinochet to Spanish prosecutors turns out to have had a whopping conflict of interest: Lord Hoffmann



failed to reveal his longtime association with Amnesty International, an active party in the case.

For the first time in the long history of the Law Lords, a decision was scrapped and a new panel appointed. This has flipped more than a few wigs.

However, sexually enlightened France's entry in the 'Kickback Olympics' puzzles Americans.

The head of France's independent Constitutional Council is roughly equivalent to the chief justice of the United States. Roland Dumas, 76, a former foreign minister and a man of great dignity, is the subject of a book by a former friend, the lobbyist Christine Deviers-

Joncour, entitled "The Whore of the Republic."

Mrs. Deviers-Joncour told investigators she was paid \$11 million by the French oil giant Elf Aquitaine to use her connection with Mr. Dumas, then foreign minister, to drop his opposition to a sale of six warships to Taiwan.

The sale, worth \$2.7 billion, went through. Mr. Dumas says he has a clear conscience and "will continue in all serenity" to preside over French justice.

He is less serene about the pictures in bathing suits with Mrs. Deviers-Joncour on a beach near the oil fields, published by the gossip Paris Match. The investigation has just been concluded and France is holding its breath.

Will its top judge be indicted? Will the "putain" be discredited or believed? A trustworthy European source tells me: "All Paris is agog."

We Americans have long ago given up agogging when it comes to affairs of the heart by powerful politicians. We smile tolerantly; we shrug expressively; we lift a sophisticated eyebrow to show we are not prigs or moralizers or hypocrites. This is the way of the world, is it not so?

Clintonized Americans regard with world-weary disdain those French prudes snooping on each other in a "nouvelle vague" of sexual McCarthyism. When will Europe grow up?

The New York Times

'No Man Is an Island, Entire of Itself,' Except When It Comes to the Senate

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — The Senate trial of President Bill Clinton makes me think of the great Japanese film "The Island." It concerned a farm family that lived on an island and whose daily routine was mostly devoted to the fetching of water from the mainland. Their life was tedious, arduous, sometimes tragic, and always engrossing.

At the end of the film, though, the camera zoomed up and off the island, revealing it to be not a universe, but a speck in the water — a mere nothing of no account to anyone.

It is the same with the Senate trial. When it is in progress, it is occasionally possible to

on a trek to nowhere. They demanded witnesses, first many and then only three. One is Sidney Blumenthal. Mr. Clinton lied to him when he denied having an affair with Ms. Lewinsky and, furthermore, characterized the young intern as a stalker.

So what? Did the House managers expect Mr. Clinton to tell Mr. Blumenthal the truth — Mr. Blumenthal above all others? Not Hillary Rodham Clinton. Not the American people. Not the lawyers at the deposition or the grand jurors at the courthouse. None of these. Just Sidney Blumenthal, whose special relationship is not with Mr. Clinton but with the first lady. What is the purpose of this?

The managers also asked for Vernon Jordan, the president's close friend and an accomplished Washington lawyer who tried to find Ms. Lewinsky a job. Mr. Jordan has already testified five times before the grand jury, each time maintaining he did not know Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky were once sexually involved. Ms. Lewinsky hailed from Beverly Hills. She had a college degree and credit cards. He helped her anyway — a touching concern for the privileged. In reality, he has always been accused of the implied crime of being too smart to be that dumb.

And the third on the list is Ms. Lewinsky herself. Why? What more can she add? We know her story. The managers seem to think we do not, that it will be news to us (and the Senate) that Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky were getting it on in the Oval Office and that, afterwards, he conspired with her to cover it all up. Yes, yes, Mister Managers, we know who this president is. But being a low life is not a high crime.

Missing from the list was Betty Currie. Why? She figured in the most preposterous aspects of the president's tale. We are supposed to believe Mrs. Currie took it on her own to retrieve Mr. Clinton's gifts to Ms. Lewinsky. We are supposed to believe that she stashed these gifts and that, I guess, her husband, Bob, did not ask what a Black Dog T-shirt and a volume of "Leaves of Grass" were doing under the bed. That's no place to read Walt Whitman.

We are also supposed to believe that she really was called in one Sunday to refresh the president's memory — a coals to Newcastle task comparable only to refreshing his libido. The president had her confirm one lie after another: I was never alone with her, right? The moon is blue, right? It was his most despicable performance — the abuse of a loyal subordinate.

The country has tuned out. The trial is called historic, but it is merely blessedly rare. It proceeds in its own sphere, an epic irrelevance that seems only to underscore the remove of the government from the governed. John Donne wrote that no man is an island, but the Senate surely is, lost, drifting and hidden in a fog of its own making.

Washington Post Service

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attacking Germ Terrorism

Regarding "Clinton Sees Threat of Germ Terrorism" (Jan. 23):

As frightening as it is to admit, there is no real defense against unconventional arms. Easy to make and easy to hide, they are simply part of our world. The proper response to this reality, however, is not to turn America into a technological surveillance state. Nor is it productive to rattle the saber of "disproportionate response" in the faces of governments that may have no connection to individual terrorists.

Constructive ways to mitigate the threat of these weapons include elim-

inating America's own vast stockpile as well as restraining from foreign-policy ventures that only inflame hatred of the United States. While these solutions may not be palatable to many in Washington, they are the only real alternatives to a policy that amounts to attacking a hornet's nest with a baseball bat.

ALEXANDER ZAITCHIK
Prague.

Future of Social Security

Social Security funds should not be invested in the stock market. The in-

herent structure of the stock market is that of a "zero-sum game," meaning that for every winner, there is a loser. For every buyer, there is a seller. When more people want to buy than sell, stock prices go up.

This is the current situation as the "baby boomers" reach the peak of their earning power and have money to invest. But, guess what will happen when the Baby Boomers retire? They will be taking more money out of the market. There will then be more sellers than buyers, and stock prices will drop.

BRUCE JOFFE
Piedmont, California.

Elia Kazan's Oscar

Regarding "Elia Kazan Deserves Oscar for Talent and Integrity" (Opinion, Jan. 27) by Richard Cohen:

I agree that Elia Kazan's films justify an Oscar, but in real life the cowardly Mr. Kazan denounced his idealistic friends through self-righteous opportunism. I prefer the movies.

DAVID WASSERMAN
Rognes, France.

Impeachment Blackout


You report that Americans all agree they want the Monica Lewinsky scan-

dal to be over. Non-American resident aliens share this wish. These days I find myself clutching my shortwave radio and excitedly moving the dial to catch some foreign news, any foreign news. Just as during the darkest communist times in my native Poland when we relied on Radio Free Europe to circumvent a total blackout of outside news, so, too, it is now possible to tune in to foreign broadcasts for impeachment-free news.

ANNA HUSARSKA
New York.


The writer is a fellow at the Media Studies Center.

To End the Crisis



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Heights of Guatemala: Ruins and Volcanoes

By Frank Bruni
New York Times Service

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — I had brushed away a thin black dust that kept settling on the pages of the novel I was reading at least three times before I took conscious note of it and began looking around for its source. I was baffled. There were few trees near the pool deck where I was sitting; there was no construction under way. Just row upon row of splendidly lush hills, rising to the snub-nosed peaks of some of Guatemala's trademark volcanoes.

Volcanoes? Could it be? I wiped off another layer of ashly grime and, in my mangled Spanish, asked one of the hotel workers.

"Pacaya," he said with a naughty smile. "Boom." Pacaya was one of the volcanoes I could not see, the summit nearest to Guatemala City, some 30 miles away, and it had indeed gone boom.

The eruption was modest — no lava, no loss of lives — but potent enough to scatter debris all the way to my hotel in the mountain town of Antigua. It temporarily closed the airport in Guatemala City and forced the cancellation of my return flight to New York, stranding me in Guatemala for 24 hours longer than I had planned to stay. And it underscored my entire experience of what is arguably Central America's most exotic country, a place that continually provided surprises — by turns exhilarating and debilitating, awe-inspiring and crazy-making.

In a relatively inexpensive, unhurried eight days — nine with the unexpected eruption — we managed to see the Maya temples in Tikal National Park near the Mexican border, the mountain-ringed idyll of Lake Atitlan, the bustling native market in the highland village of Chichicastenango and the colonial town of Antigua — formerly Antigua Guatemala — with its narrow cobblestone streets and boutiques brimming with jade, religious ornaments and handmade textiles.

A SUPPLY OF PATIENCE But we also learned that Guatemala is not easy, that tourists who head there need to pack an ample supply of patience before they depart. Rickety, sluggish trucks clog the two-lane, serpentine, generously named highways that connect various cities and villages; what should be a one-hour drive can easily expand into three, and road signs in some areas are obscure or nonexistent. The changeable weather makes it difficult to choose the right time or day to ascend a volcano or rent a boat.

Then there is the crime, or at least the fear of it. Although Guatemala is no longer plagued by the political instability of 5 or 10 years ago, it remains an impoverished country in which wealthy foreign tourists are conspicuous and, according to some travel guides and the U.S. State Department, ready prey. Tourists have been robbed, assaulted and, in the widely publicized case of five American college students traveling in a group from Maryland last year, raped.

My experience and those of other tourists with whom I spoke suggested that this threat was overblown, but it nonetheless restricts the movements of any cautious traveler.

On our first full day, we took, for about \$200 each, a daylong trip to Tikal National Park that included round-trip airfare for the 45-minute flight from Guatemala City to the small northern city of Flores, transportation between the Flores airport and the park and a guide for exploration of the Maya ruins, scattered throughout a dense jungle inhabited by rare birds and spider monkeys. We saw our first monkey no more than a few yards down the footpath into the park.

The astonishingly intact ruins, mostly dating from around A.D. 700, are spread out over several square miles that also include some structures still being excavated, and they are a revelation, accessible to tourists in a way they would not be in a more developed country. The difference, I'm convinced, is liability. If these steeply graded stone temples, with jagged facades that resemble crude staircases, were situated in, say, the Arizona desert, they would undoubtedly be cordoned off. In Tikal, a visitor can climb to the top of each pyramidal structure, a hair-raising experience surpassed only by the trip back down. Going in that direction, we were forced to slither backward, bellies to stone, lest vertigo and utter panic overtake us.

We felt like fools, until our guide assured us that more intrepid tourists had met ghastly fates. He said that one American teenager took a furious tumble and broke a dozen bones. A German tourist intent on videotaping his descent lost control of more than his camera and ended up in a coma.

We heaved sighs of relief and reassured ourselves that no other activity on our trip would prove so nerve-wracking. We had yet to reach Lake Atitlan, where a volcano beckoned us toward its cloud-shrouded apex.

It is astonishing that the mention of Atitlan does not prompt the instant recognition among travelers that the names Tahoe or Como do, because Atitlan's beauty easily trumps that of more famous lakes. Atitlan lies about 5,100 feet (1,550 meters) above sea level, and the three volcanoes along its shores rise to peaks averaging about 10,000 feet. Moreover, the villages along the 50-square-mile lake are still inhabited by modern-day Mayas wearing traditional dress, kaleidoscopic garments shimmering with purple, orange and crimson threads.

But it took us nearly three hours by car to reach Atitlan from Guatemala City on the Pan-American Highway, and the natural wonder we encountered was less than lovingly maintained. Maya women use it as a laundry basin, and litter coats some of its shores.

Such was the legacy of our volcano adventure. Heading travel books and advisories that warned of occasional robberies along hiking trails, we spent what was considered poor dollar — about 75 cents — to hire a guide to take us across the lake and up the slopes of the volcano of San Pedro. This bought us passage in a crowded, dirty motorboat and then 15 minutes in the refuse-strewn bed of a pickup truck navigating

the bumpy gravel and dirt road from a squalid village to the trail head.

The climb itself was pure torture — the incline of the weed-tangled, rock-studded path was sometimes close to vertical — and after the first of the three and a half hours to the summit at 9,908 feet, any views were obscured by the dense tree cover. When we reached the top, our reward was sweat-soaked clothing, burning thighs, altitude-aggravated shortness of breath and an impenetrable fog that diminished visibility to about 75 feet. A Dutch couple whose curses had occasionally been audible from about 100 feet ahead of us on the trail lay inert on a mossy boulder, but they seemed to be breathing. At least, we thought, the hard part was over.

Then a veritable monsoon hit, turning the air frigid and the narrow trail into a treacherous mudslide. As we baby-stepped our way down in sneakers ill-suited for such conditions, my sister tumbled repeatedly into thorny brambles. The blood from her scratches mingled with tears from her terror, prompting an epiphany. Never, she vowed, would she go on vacation with me again.

THE next morning, we awoke with sore throats, high temperatures and muscles so shredded we could barely get out of bed. Fortunately, we had a full day to recuperate before our next destination. Even more fortunately, that destination, after a brief stop in Chichicastenango, was the Casa Santo Domingo, a five-star hotel of nonpareil beauty in the relaxing and refined village of Antigua, Guatemala's colonial capital in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Casa Santo Domingo's labyrinth-like series of dark stone hallways and column-fringed courtyards ramble through the ruins of a 17th-century Dominican monastery, and the hotel's attentive caretakers evoke the sacred aura of the place with a multitude of religious statues and flickering candles that, at night, are pretty much the sole source of light (except, of course, in guest rooms). Fresh flower petals float atop the tiny concrete pools that dot the public areas.

All of this, plus a room with a fireplace and terrace, cost about \$100 a night.

Antigua itself is a miracle of painstaking preservation, its buildings and streets little changed over the last 200 years. To wander through the center of the town, which has about 35,000 residents, is to encounter the remnants of convents, monasteries and elaborately sculptured churches built between the mid-1500s and the mid-1700s. The views of the surrounding volcanoes change as clouds gather, disperse and scumble from one horizon to the next.

Antigua also boasts craft stores tucked into quiet courtyards with ornate gardens, quaint bars and restaurants that offer sophisticated cuisine not easily found elsewhere in the country. We enjoyed a fine dinner at Meson Panza Verde, which serves its beef and pork dishes in rich sauces laced with Cognac and cream. With a bottle of wine from the extensive list, two people can stuff themselves for around \$70.



Ruins at Tikal National Park, most dating from around A.D. 700, are spread out over several square miles.

Costa Rica: The View From the Veranda

By Frances Frank Marcus

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — A red dugout canoe floated on the calm aqua sea, orchids were blooming in the garden, large grapefruit and limes hung languorously in the orchard. And on a steep slope above, we glimpsed the edge of a deep green, mysterious Costa Rican rain forest. Nothing wrong with the view. But something was definitely amiss. A rather big something.

Surveying the vista from our room at the top of the stairs in a jungle lodge reachable only by boat, we could see the canoe, citrus trees and forest clearly for a good reason. On three sides, between the beaded board wainscoting and the roof, there was nothing but tropical sea air. Our room was almost without walls. My husband and I had known this in advance but even so, seeing it up close was disquieting. In any case, the space was now ours, and paid for in advance.

We set down three small pieces of luggage. Then there was a flutter of wings. A large toucan flapped straight toward us, stopping a few feet away in the branches of a tall water apple tree.

There was a reason for staying in a room that was half-porch at the top of the lodge operated by Rainbow Adventures-Costa Rica, in the southwestern part of the country near Panama. It is set in a 1,200-acre (480-hectare) rain forest, blessed with spectacular scenery and gorgeous birds. Here, we wanted to test an idea embraced by Alec Waugh, the English writer, who liked to size up unfamiliar territory from a veranda. Like him, we wanted to find out if we could see a respectable amount of jungle life from the edges.

"Either you are the explorer, who leaves no corner unexamined, who hurries from place to place collecting and codifying facts; or else you are the observer," Waugh wrote in "Hot Countries," his book about travels in the tropics. "Myself, I have always chosen to let life come to me."

Still, there were questions. The main one: How much of our third-floor room would we be sharing and with how many varieties of wildlife? Costa Rica is said to have 850 species of bird and more than 35,000 species of insect, including hordes of mosquitoes. We had learned that Rainbow's owner, Michael Medill, had not installed ceiling fans because they could annihilate hummingbirds.

Our trip to Rainbow Adventures began with a flight from

San Jose, Costa Rica's mountainous capital, in a twin-engine plane 50 minutes southeast over the mountains to Puerto Jimenez, a village on the Golfo Dulce near the Pacific Ocean. We were headed for the Osa Peninsula and Lapu Lapu, an upscale jungle lodge, where the rooms were protected by mesh screens. Two mornings later we checked out and climbed into a four-wheel drive truck that would take us to Puerto Jimenez for the boat trip across the Golfo Dulce to our room without walls.

At Rainbow, built in a grassy clearing between the volcanic sand beach and the steep forested ridge, Brian Strehlow, a co-manager, wearing camp counselor shorts and T-shirt, was waiting as we stepped from the skiff onto rocks and splashed through tidal pools to reach the shore.

In our third-floor room at the top of the stairs, we walked into a hodgepodge of collectibles, panels of stained glass, small tables of Art Nouveau objects, several vases filled with bouquets of fresh flowers, faded prints on the wall and polished hardwood floors. Fine mesh mosquito netting shadowed the double bed.

Downstairs on the breezy veranda, a home-style lunch was delicious: fresh tamarind juice, a soft tamale with chicken and fresh vegetables and a salad of marinated cauliflower.

Energized by the tamarind juice, we decided to go for a walk with Brian, included in the daily rate for room and meals. On an easy trek wading up one of Rainbow's clear rocky streams we saw a green kingfisher in a wild avocado tree, beautiful fungi that looked like tiny white caps growing on tree limbs, and a plant species with an elephantine trunk.

But we saw nothing on our walk as beguiling as the frangipani tree in Rainbow's side garden, festooned with hanging clumps of pastel orchids growing in coconut husks — though the ylang-ylang tree with a languid yellow flower came close. Hummingbirds sipped from the bird-of-paradise-like blossoms of the heliconia plant. The tree sheltering a family of bats was less appealing.

After dinner that evening, we drifted outside to look for tree frogs and other creatures near the 48-foot nonchlorinated, spring-fed swimming pool, part of Rainbow's evening ritual. The frogs flatten themselves against green leaves until they are almost two-dimensional. There were plenty of frogs but no sign of the boa constrictor that had visited the pool area a few days before.

Night falls early in Costa Rican jungles, and so do bird-

watchers. By about 10 P.M. you crawl under the mosquito netting to wait for dawn, when you're awakened by silvery bird calls. Later the rain came down in torrents, but the room stayed dry, protected by the wide roof overhang. Beyond the buckets of rain that fell in the inky black, I was aware only of perfume from the ylang-ylang tree.

The next day after breakfast, we left the veranda for a trip to the main attraction in Rainbow's world, Casa de Orquideas, a botanical garden that is a 15- or 20-minute boat ride south of the lodge. The garden was created by two Americans, Ron and Trudy MacAllister. The beguiling 70-acre garden surrounding the small house they built themselves 19 years ago out of native woods lies between the steep jungle hillside and the beach.

In the garden's wild tangle of tropical splendors — plants growing on top of plants and sprouting from every visible cranny — one orchid species grows up to 12 feet tall and another has a bloom no bigger than four pinheads. Inviting pathways, curve through thickets of mango, papaya, guanabana, cashews, and star fruit trees, spiky bromeliads, giant strangler figs, heliconias, a variety of gingers and countless other species. There were cactuses, which grow much faster in Costa Rica than in the desert, and a palm tree that, Trudy said, "you can see grow — five feet in two weeks. I sit on my porch and watch it grow."

THE FINAL TALLY

Back at Rainbow, early the next morning, just before leaving, I sat in front of the lodge on a seaside bench made of a split log for a last look, sporting brown pelicans circling above dolphins. The pelicans followed our boat south to Golfo Dulce and its small landing strip. Waiting for the plane back to San Jose, we sat on a bench under trees hung with bromeliads. My wildlife tally after two days beside the rain forest was paltry by Costa Rican standards: a dozen bird species I could name, dozens of others I couldn't name, an agile racoonlike coati, and no mosquito bites. But what we did see was choice. And we had learned what we had hoped to learn, that you can see quite a bit without straying far from a veranda.

Frances Frank Marcus is a frequent contributor to The New York Times.



The crater of the Irazu volcano in Costa Rica.



A green iguana on its jungle perch.

From Night Safari to Museums, a Youthful Tour of Singapore

By Katherine Knorr
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — There are a lot of good ways to spend time with kids in Singapore. What makes this city-state sometimes boring and sometimes disturbing to adults — its firm government and its enforced orderliness — makes it an ideal place to travel with children: It's clean and safe, relatively unpolluted, full of tropical gardens, multicultural food and shopping malls for all ages.

The kitschy Night Safari, on the north side of the island, is a definite kid hit, with its spookily lighted animals "in their habitat" (check out the anteater) and the little train that takes you through to spy on them.

Singapore is also working at expanding its museums, all part of attracting that tourist dollar, and although none is truly worth a detour, they make a nice break from the sultry Somerset Maugham climate.

STATE-OF-THE-ART VIDEO The major museums are not specifically aimed at kids, but they have gone to great lengths to be accessible and fun, with state-of-the-art video connections to back up the exhibits with background information that comes close to giving you the recipe for replicating that nice piece of "kitchen" Qing ware.

Indeed visitors to the museums are bound to see characteristically neat and quiet school groups with a few hours off from excelling in the

classroom, to peer into their island's past.

It has to be said that Singapore, despite its best intentions, isn't particularly rich in Asian, or even specifically Chinese art — many of the collections are borrowed from private collectors, and are therefore quirky and incomplete from any historical standpoint. But the very quirkiness of the museums can be a draw for a change of pace.

This visitor's favorite was the Asian Civilisations Museum, the first part of what will be a larger museum devoted to the cultural history of

KIDS

Asia. The first museum, in the refurbished old Tao Nan School, also offers an opportunity — rare in Singapore — to wander through colonial-style architecture, all mission white walls and dark banisters.

The museum, which concentrates on Chinese civilization (the next phase, to open in a few years in the Empress Place Building, will look more widely at Asian culture), makes up for the modesty of its collections with interesting and intelligent display.

In a fairly short tour, an hour or so, you get a sense of Chinese civilization high and low through architecture, furniture, porcelain and enamelware, burial artifacts, writing utensils, jewelry and so on — all of it practical rather than abstract and so a draw for kids' eyes.

The tour starts with a small but highly amusing display, on the Peranakan, or Straits

Chinese, who emigrated from China in the 19th century to form Chinese communities in the Straits settlements.

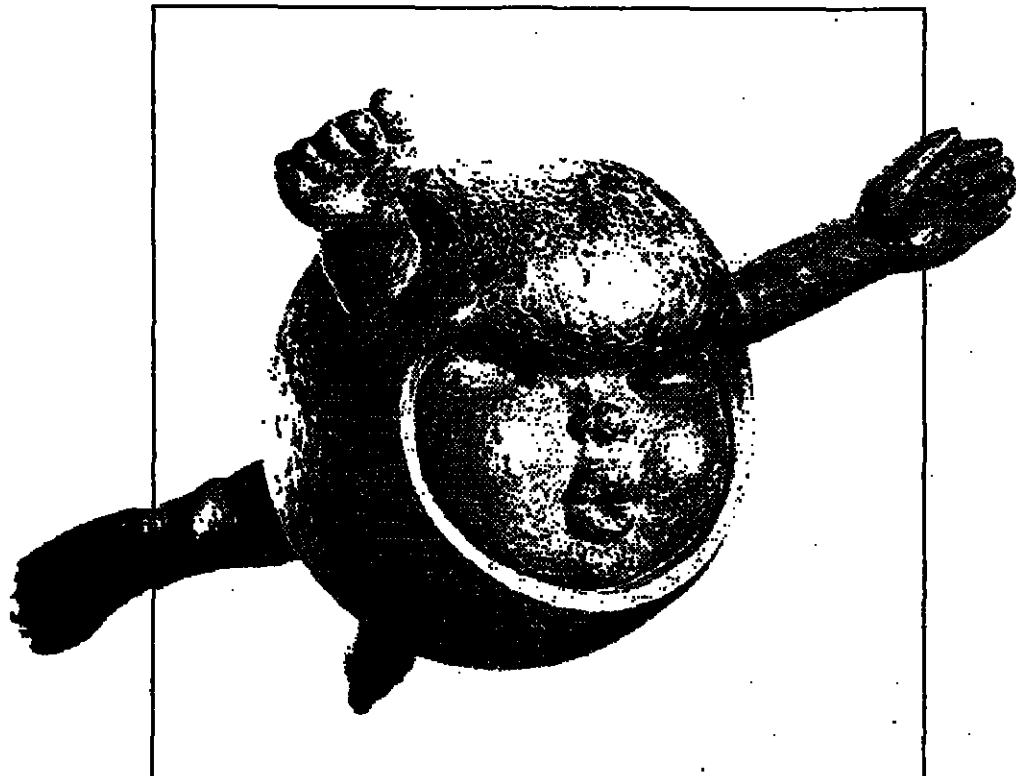
Among the embroidered fabrics and the elaborate porcelain created for the huge weddings of merchants' children are highly ornate beaded mules and purses, high in tangerine color and in the unmistakable image of that great old Asian heroine Betty Boop.

At the National University of Singapore, near the Lee Kong Chian museum (probably too academic for kids), look into the Ng Eng Teng Gallery, devoted to the works of the Singaporean sculptor. Although most of his work is stark and haunting, there is also much playfulness in his pottery, which makes up about one-third of the gallery space, and in his great rocking works in cement *fendu*, which kids will love.

On a much larger scale the Singapore Art Museum, housed in the handsome old St. Joseph's mission school, is another major government project.

Devoted to contemporary art from Asia, it suffers from the same malady as many contemporary art museums around the world: Much of the work, which wishes to be both playful and youthful and profound, tends to be cartoonish or otherwise garish — but to each his own.

The collection does offer a good sampling of the work of such Singaporean pioneers as the late George Tan, and of young artists from Thailand to Vietnam to Burma, high in color and in modern angst. There is enough goofy art to please the kids and there is a nice coffee shop.



"Freedom Child," 1978, by the Singaporean sculptor Ng Eng Teng.

THE FREQUENT TRAVELER

Off and Running With the Euro

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

TRAVELERS are learning to love the euro—the new single European currency that came into being on Jan. 1. You will no longer have to figure out how many lire to the dollar or pesetas to the French franc or Belgian francs to the guilder.

With euro coins and notes not due to enter circulation for three years, the euro may seem unreal: an invisible currency that can only be used in non-cash transactions, such as charge-card payments, traveler's checks and direct debits.

On Jan. 1, 2002, euro notes and coins will be introduced and all prices will be posted in euros. National currencies will be gradually withdrawn and will cease to be legal tender by June 30, 2002, at the latest. The four European Union members that are not in the European monetary union—Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece—may join the second wave around 2002.

Consolidating your expenses in euros means that you just have one foreign-exchange cost—between the euro and your own currency, such as dollars, yen or the British pound. And with a euro-dollar exchange rate of about 1.16, it's easy to see what you're spending (think of the euro as slightly heavier than the dollar) and compare euro prices—and therefore the value of goods and services in various countries.

Cross-Border Services

Price transparency in the 11 countries of the euro zone—Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain—will make it much easier to shop for the best cross-border air fares, hotel rates and other travel services in different countries once all prices are posted in euros. This ability to compare prices should lead to more competition and bring prices more in line across borders.

It's worth stating the obvious that

during the three-year transition, national currencies still exist alongside the euro. The 11 euro-zone currencies are locked in a fixed exchange rate with the euro. Thus, there are 6.55937 French francs, 40.3399 Belgian-Luxembourg francs and 1.93633 Deutsche marks to the euro. So there are no more fluctuations between the euro currencies and, therefore, no exchange costs because they are all expressions of the same money—the euro.

However, don't expect merchants or banks to round all those decimal points up or down in your favor. And some banks in euro-zone countries are charging "handling fees"—officially frowned upon in Brussels—to replace the "spread" between the buy and sell rates for currencies that you see posted in banks and exchange bureaus.

Single-currency rules apply also to the four countries outside the euro zone—Britain, Sweden, Greece and Denmark, so that if you want to change, say, French francs to Deutsche marks in London, you should be able to save money through the fixed-rate system. But many banks still charge for two foreign-exchange spreads by taking you through the pound. Banks normally make 1 to 3 percent on each transaction. So you could end up paying 6 percent.

Travelers are seeing prices posted in euros alongside national currencies. But you are not obliged to pay in euros—nor are merchants obliged to accept euros—during the three-year transition. But it makes sense to start thinking euros, and make as many transactions as possible in euros with euro-denominated traveler's checks or on your charge card.

Most major airlines accept the new currency. Travelers, for example, on Air France or British Airways flights from euro-zone countries can choose to pay in euros or local currency. Major hotel chains are "euro compliant."

American Express, Thomas Cook and Visa International issue euro traveler's checks in denominations of 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros, and banks are

starting to issue euro-denominated credit and debit cards for corporate and individual travelers.

Keith Meyrick, director of worldwide-acceptance traveler's checks at American Express, said: "We've been selling about \$100,000 a day in euro checks since Jan. 1. Apart from Europe, the majority of sales are in long-haul markets—like Japan, the United States, Australia and Korea. People are saying: 'I'm visiting two or three countries, so instead of taking dollars, francs or Deutsche marks in cash or checks, I'll just take euros, which is a distinct advantage traveling across borders.'"

Paying by card is likely to be more straightforward. You don't need a euro-designated card to deal in euros—your normal card works the same as for any foreign currency. If you pay in euros, euros will show up on your statement, converted into your currency—or at the fixed rate if you live in a euro-zone country. There is no financial gain, but it enables you to compare prices in euros and makes it easier to fill out expense reports.

FREQUENT travelers to Europe should consider opening a euro bank account and getting a euro-denominated card. Thus, whenever the transaction currency, your statement will be expressed in euros. This depends on your bank's capability. Citibank has launched a euro current account and debit card—where payments are taken directly out of your account—while some banks, such as NatWest in Britain, are planning to launch corporate euro cards. Lloyds says it can open a euro account in London with a euro debit card beginning March 1.

Hasan Alameddini, head of the single-currency unit at Visa International, said, "Judging from cross-border euro transactions going through our system in the last three weeks, acceptance of the euro is quite wide and will increase. A significant proportion of euro traffic is from Belgium, French, Spanish and Portuguese card-holders."

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

LONDON
Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, tel: (171) 704-9522, open daily. To April 11: "Zang Tumb Tumb: The Futurist Graphic Revolution." Manifestos, book covers and magazines explore the graphic revolution brought about by Futurist artists between 1909 and 1943.
National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2885, open daily. To April 25: "Portraits by Ingres: Images of an Epoch." 40 painted portraits and 50 portrait drawings of the aristocrats, the merchants, the bankers and the diplomats of the Napoleonic era and their wives, both in France and Italy, by the French painter (1780-1867).
www.nationalgallery.org.uk
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. Continuing "To April 11: 'Monet in the 20th Century.' Eighty paintings from the final decades of the artist's life."
www.royalacademy.org.uk

FRANCE

PARIS
Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: 01-44-78-12-33, closed Tuesdays. To April 28: "David Hockney: Espace/Paysage." Brings together approximately 50 paintings, photographs and installations exploring landscapes, a recent orientation in the work of the British painter (born 1937). The exhibition will travel to Bonn.

GERMANY

COLOGNE
Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (221) 221-23-32, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Fin de Siècle: Graphic Art in Europe Around 1900." More than 150 graphic works reflect the fin-de-siècle mood of nostalgia and optimism over the future, as well as the influences of Impressionism, Symbolism and Art Nouveau.
Toulouse-Lautrec, Edward Munch and James Ensor.

GREECE

ATHENS
Museum of Cycladic Art, tel: (1) 722-8321, closed Sundays and Tuesdays. To Jan. 31: "Iberian Antiquities." On loan from the Shelby



Humor and imagination in a London exhibition: Futurist alphabet letters take on the shapes of dancers.

ITALY
Florence
Museo Stibbert, tel: 055-448-6048, closed Thursdays. To April 30: "L'Abito per il Corpo, il Corpo per l'Abito: Islam e Occidente a Confronto." More than 120 costumes allow the comparison between structured European clothes and the flowing garments of the Middle East.

ITALY

ROME
White and Leon Levy Collection of Antiquities in New York, 70 objects representing the cultures that flourished in the Iberian Peninsula from the middle of the third millennium B.C. to the Roman conquest.
www.kylos.gr/kylos/italy/rome/rome.htm

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UNITED STATES

NEW HAVEN
Yale Center for British Art, tel: (203) 432-2800, closed Mondays. Reopening after extensive renovation, the center presents parallel exhibitions of the three artists who, in different ways, contributed to the evolution of British art in the 20th century. To March 21: "Lucian Freud Etchings." More than 40 etchings created by the British painter (born 1922) over the last 20 years. "Henry Moore and the Heroic: A Centenary Tribute." Twenty sculptures dating from the 1930s through the 70s. "Francis Bacon: A Retrospective Exhibition." Study paintings of human figures.
www.yale.edu/ycai

CLOSING SOON

AMERICA
Jan. 31: "Love and War: A Manual for Life in the Late Middle Ages." National Gallery of Art, Washington.
Feb. 2: "Jackson Pollock." Museum of Modern Art, New York.

ASIA

Jan. 31: "Contemporary Portuguese Architecture: Sea, Stone and Space." Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong.
Jan. 31: "Zao Wou-Ki: Sixty Years of Painting." Shanghai Museum, Shanghai, China.

EUROPE

Jan. 31: "Luca Signorelli in British Collections." National Gallery, London.
Jan. 31: "L'Amore da Russia Dans ses Icones." Toit de la Grande Arche, Paris.

MIDDLE EAST

Feb. 2: "The Joy of Color: The Merzbacher Collection." The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

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A SIMPLE PLAN

Directed by Sam Raimi. U.S.

"Nobody'd ever believe that you'd be capable of doing what you've done," the once wholesome main character in "A Simple Plan" is told by his wife, at a point when he can barely believe it himself. Though he begins the story innocently enough, Hank Mitchell (Bill Paxton) winds up digging himself ever deeper into a hole that's impossible to escape. However straightforward these events are described, they become ever more gripping and unsettling as the film proceeds. Exactly how and why a chance event escalates to such intensity is at the heart of this quietly devastating thriller directed by Sam Raimi, the cult horror director ("The Evil Dead") who makes a flawless segue into mainstream storytelling. And in an acting collaboration that is as fine as their first, and could share its title ("One False Move"), Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton play out the consequences of a harmless-sounding error in judgment that winds up leveling everything in its path. Adapted by Scott B. Smith from his suspenseful and highly cinematic best-seller, it begins with the irresistible hook of a windfall that drops out of the sky. Hank and two other men accidentally happen onto a small airplane that has crashed while carrying \$4.4 million in cargo. What they do about this, and how they do it, will shape their fates forever. The plan of the title: Hank decides he will take the money and hide it for a while, waiting to see if anyone comes to claim it. He assumes this responsibility because he is the only member of the trio who has a job (at a feed store) and shows any sign of responsibility. The other two men are Hank's childhood friend Jacob, who is played with both sweetness and an edge of danger by Thornton, and Jacob's friend Lou (Brent Briscoe), later described as "a 40-year-old out-of-work high-school dropout who's proud when people call him the town drunk." So Hank, who has a tidy little home, a pretty wife and a baby on the way, is clearly the man in charge. But Hank's wife, Sarah (Bridget Fonda), turns out to be an unexpectedly powerful player in this drama. Right away, she suggests that Hank return \$500,000 to the plane, to ward off suspicions of looting. This winds up having terrible consequences when a nosy farmer gets in the way, and it's only the beginning of the story's lethal complications. The film becomes ever more enveloping as a well-honed morality tale rising to a near-biblical level of punishment for its characters' transgressions. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

BOOKS

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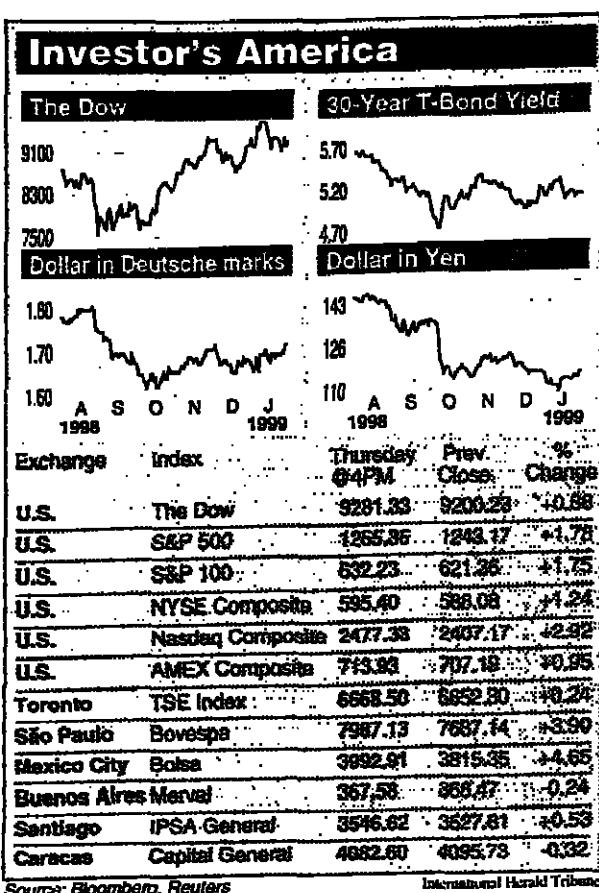
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With the economy slowing, unemployment rising and protests by unpaid workers or overtaxed farmers erupting frequently, China's leaders have said that social stability is their pre-eminent goal for 1999.

[illegible]

THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

- Brazil's high interest rates and a sharp economic downturn pushed the unemployment rate up two percentage points last year, to 7.6 percent, according to the government-run IBGE statistics institute.
- Baxter International Inc., the world's second-biggest maker of medical devices and supplies, said fourth-quarter net earnings rose 16 percent, to \$212 million, on increased sales of products to treat blood and kidney problems.
- BB&T Corp., the fourth-largest bank in North Carolina, agreed to buy Mason-Dixon Bancshares Inc., of Maryland, for \$256.9 million in stock.
- Adelphia Communications Corp., the seventh-largest U.S. cable operator, is to buy FPL Group Inc.'s stake in Olympus Communications LP for \$257.2 million, giving Adelphia control of the Florida cable operator.
- Eli Lilly & Co., the maker of Prozac, the world's best-selling anti-depressant, said fourth-quarter profit rose 24 percent, to \$567.3 million from \$457.5 million a year earlier, as sales rose 17 percent, to \$2.64 billion. Prozac sales rose 8 percent, to \$744.5 million.
- Dow Chemical Co.'s fourth-quarter earnings fell to \$447 million before charges from \$479 million a year before amid pricing pressures on its chemical businesses.
- Lockheed Martin Corp., the second-biggest aerospace company, said fourth-quarter profit fell 15 percent, to \$308 million, as the company suffered from delayed commercial space launchings and military aircraft deliveries.
- Pitney Bowes Inc., the largest maker of postage meters, said fourth-quarter profit climbed 16 percent, to \$162.4 million, meeting estimates, led by increased sales of office equipment and digital meters.
- Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp., the sixth-largest U.S. oil refiner, is to cut 300 jobs as its fourth-quarter earnings fell 93 percent, to \$2.6 million, because of slimmer refining profit margins.

Dollar Hits Greenspan Renews Attack on Social Security Plan

A High as Euro Slips

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar hit its highest rate so far against the euro as it also rose Thursday against most other major currencies on expectations that the U.S. economy would dominate those in Europe and Japan again this year.

"People are having a change of heart on the dollar," said Dan Scherman of MFS Asset Management in Boston. Markets had been

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

routing the "demise" of the dollar, he said, but "U.S. numbers have done nothing but diminish that thought. The economy isn't running on air."

In 4 P.M. trading, the euro was at \$1.1416, its lowest value since the single European currency was introduced at the start of this year, down from \$1.1438 on Wednesday.

The dollar rose to 116.350 yen, also a high for the year, from 115.775 yen. New U.S. data indicating strong orders for durable goods and growth in wages reinforced investors' confidence that the economy is not losing steam, which makes any cut in interest rates less likely. The European Central Bank, by contrast, is expected to cut rates, analysts said, to prevent recovery in the euro zone from fizzling.

"This is a good time to be buying dollars," said Fernando Medina, a senior trader at Banco Atlantico. "These numbers confirm the strength of the economy, and with the ECB expected to cut rates, that's going to widen interest rate differentials" in the dollar's favor.

Investors bought the dollar ahead of the report due Friday on fourth-quarter U.S. gross domestic product. Economists have estimated that growth accelerated to an annual rate of 4.5 percent from the 3.7 percent rate in the third quarter. "I'm a long-term bull on the dollar," said Tony Norris, a director at First International Advisors Ltd. in London. "The strongest economy is the U.S."

The dollar also gained after the first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Stanley Fischer, said the fund was working "intensively" with Brazil to help stabilize the economy of the largest Latin American economy.

The dollar rose to 1.4117 Swiss francs from 1.4098 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6493 from \$1.6460.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, repeated Thursday his criticism of President Bill Clinton's proposal for investing Social Security funds in the stock market, saying the permanent solution to the pension fund's looming shortfall was to increase taxes or cut benefits.

"Increasing our national saving is critical," the central banker testified before the Senate Budget Committee, and transferring budget surpluses to the Social Security trust fund "is a major step in the right direction."

But investing any of that money in stocks "would arguably put at risk the efficiency of our capital markets and thus our economy," Mr. Greenspan said.

"Even with Herculean efforts, I doubt it would be feasible to insulate, over the long run, the trust

funds from political pressure — direct and indirect — to allocate capital to less than its most productive use," he said.

Mr. Greenspan noted that studies had shown that state and local pension funds that invested in stocks had lower average rates of return than private investments. "Similarly, there is evidence that suggests that, the greater the proportion of trustees who are political appointees, the lower the rate of return," he said.

Mr. Greenspan did not address the current state of the U.S. economy or monetary policy in his testimony.

On the politically sensitive issue of benefit cuts or tax increases, Mr. Greenspan said the demographics of having a huge baby-boom generation retiring and fewer workers left to support retirees had presented policymakers with few choices.

Stocks Rise on Strong Growth Data

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stock prices rose Thursday as investors welcomed high-profile takeovers, new signs of strong economic growth and a slew of positive earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished 81.10 points higher at 9,281.33. Advancing issues led declines by an 8-to-7 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was up 22.20 points at 1,265.37.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 70.20 points to a record 2,477.34. "This market is merger-driven," said Ted Theodore, director of research at Avatar Associates, "and you have this added feature of a very good earnings picture."

Ford shares rose 2 1/4 to 62 7/16 after it said it would buy the automotive operations of Volvo for \$6.45 billion.

But TRW Inc. slipped 1/4 to 50 1/4 after LucasVarity accepted its bid for the British auto-parts company.

The Internet search service Yahoo! rose 3 1/4 to 36 3/4 after it announced it was buying GeoCities. GeoCities shares soared 4 1/4 to 11 1/4.

"People are still aggressive buyers of technology stocks," said Robert Streed of Northern Trust. "The growth is clear, and the earnings are coming through."

Among other Internet-related stocks, America Online was up 1 1/4 after the on-line service provider reported that its second-

quarter earnings nearly quadrupled, to \$88 million.

"I love AOL," said Andrea Williams of Volpe Brown Whelan & Co. "They're so dominant. They're almost untouchable."

But the company suffered a setback Thursday when the Federal Communications Commission re-

U.S. STOCKS

fused to force cable-TV companies to sell their new high-speed Internet hook-ups to competing Internet companies.

While investors have flocked to Internet stocks, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, urged caution. In an appearance before the Senate Budget Committee, the central banker said prices of such shares were going up under a "lottery principle."

"The size of that potential market is so huge that you have these pie-in-the-sky type of potentials for a lot of different vehicles," Mr. Greenspan said, adding, "Undoubtedly, some of these small companies whose stock prices are going through the roof will succeed. And they very well may justify even higher prices. The vast majority are almost sure to fail."

Investors took heart from two economic reports showing strong growth but no immediate signs of overheating.

Factory orders for durable goods rose 1.9 percent in December, the sixth rise in seven months, as demand for industrial hardware, elec-

tronics and electrical equipment accelerated. For all of last year, orders rose 3.5 percent after increasing 7.1 percent during 1997, the Commerce Department said, the smallest annual gain since 1991, when the economy was emerging from recession.

"The worst for our exporters is over," said a former Federal Reserve governor, Lyle Gramley, adding, "Manufacturing productivity continues to be very robust." The Labor Department reported that Americans' wages and benefits rose last year by 3.4 percent, the fastest rate in five years and a slight improvement over 1997. But wages and benefits did cool in the fourth quarter, good news for investors who are worried that wage pressures could prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

The data spurred bonds, with the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond falling to 5.10 percent from 5.13 percent on Wednesday.

Strong earnings reports drove other stocks.

Eli Lilly shares gained 1 7/16 at 91 3/16 after the drugmaker announced strong earnings and authorized a \$1 billion stock-repurchase program.

BankAmerica rose 2 1/4 to 64 1/4 after the chairman of the largest U.S. bank predicted that net income would rise 25 percent this year.

Intel shares rose 4 1/16 to 137 3/16 after the chipmaker announced a 2-for-1 stock split.

Charter Gains Cable Systems In Southeast

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Charter Communications Inc., one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States, is on the move again.

The company, owned by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft Corp., will gain cable systems serving about 260,000 customers in a complicated \$2.4 billion deal with Nashville-based InterMedia Partners and Telecommunications Inc.

TCI and Charter will acquire systems that InterMedia Partners now uses to serve about 700,000 customers in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

TCI, which is being acquired by AT&T Corp., will give up its 49 percent stake in InterMedia in exchange for InterMedia's 300,000 customers in the Nashville area and Charter's systems in several Indiana communities, as well as systems in Shelbyville, Kentucky, Logan, Utah and Milltown, Montana.

TCI's president, Leo Hindery, said InterMedia's rebuilt cable systems should help TCI provide the advanced services that will be offered after the merger with AT&T.

Charter will pay InterMedia an unspecified amount of cash and will give it systems serving 140,000 customers in Indiana, Kentucky, Utah and Montana. Charter will take over about 400,000 customers in the southeastern United States.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, Jan. 28									
Indexes					Most Active				
Dow Jones	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus.	9281.33	9281.33	9281.33	+81.10	1,265.37	1,265.37	1,265.37	1,265.37	+22.20
Transp.	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	+100.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	+100.00
Standard & Poors	1,265.37	1,265.37	1,265.37	+22.20	1,265.37	1,265.37	1,265.37	1,265.37	+22.20

NYSE									
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Alcoa	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Amgen	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Boeing	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Northern Telecom	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00

Nasdaq									
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Amgen	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Boeing	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Northern Telecom	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00

AMEX									
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Amgen	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Boeing	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Northern Telecom	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00

Dow Jones Bond									
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Amgen	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Boeing	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Northern Telecom	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00

Trading Activity									
NYSE	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Nasdaq	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Amgen	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Boeing	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Northern Telecom	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00

AMEX									
Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Company	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Amgen	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00
Boeing	45.10	45.10	45.10	+0.10	Northern Telecom	120.00	120.00	120.00	+1.00

Dividends									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

STOCK SPLIT									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

STOCK SPLIT									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

STOCK SPLIT									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

STOCK SPLIT									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

STOCK SPLIT									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

STOCK SPLIT									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company
Alcatel	45.10	45.10	Intel	120.00	120.00	Microsoft	120.00	120.00	Northern Telecom
Amgen	45.10	45.10	IBM	120.00	120.00	Boeing	45.10	45.10	Alcoa
Boeing	45.10	45.10	Amgen	45.10	45.10	Alcatel	45.10	45.10	IBM

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

High Low Last Chg. Opt

Grains				
CORN (CBOT)				
5,000 bu minimum—cents per bushel				
Mar 99	219	214 1/2	216	+ 1/2
May 99	224 1/4	220 3/4	222	+ 1/4
July 99	229 1/4	225 1/4	227	+ 1/2

NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
IBM		4.8	15	125 1/4	124 3/4	125 1/4
Microsoft		3.2	25	56 1/4	55 3/4	56 1/4
Oracle		4.2	20	48 1/4	47 3/4	48 1/4
Amazon.com		1.2	10	10 1/4	10 3/4	10 1/4
Google		1.5	12	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
Yahoo		1.8	14	18 1/4	18 3/4	18 1/4
Alibaba		1.0	11	11 1/4	11 3/4	11 1/4
Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Apple		3.5	22	135 1/4	134 3/4	135 1/4
Microsoft		3.2	25	56 1/4	55 3/4	56 1/4
Oracle		4.2	20	48 1/4	47 3/4	48 1/4
Amazon.com		1.2	10	10 1/4	10 3/4	10 1/4
Google		1.5	12	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
Yahoo		1.8	14	18 1/4	18 3/4	18 1/4
Alibaba		1.0	11	11 1/4	11 3/4	11 1/4
Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

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Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day.
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
IBM		4.8	15	125 1/4	124 3/4	125 1/4
Microsoft		3.2	25	56 1/4	55 3/4	56 1/4
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Alibaba		1.0	11	11 1/4	11 3/4	11 1/4
Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

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Oracle		4.2	20	48 1/4	47 3/4	48 1/4
Amazon.com		1.2	10	10 1/4	10 3/4	10 1/4
Google		1.5	12	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
Yahoo		1.8	14	18 1/4	18 3/4	18 1/4
Alibaba		1.0	11	11 1/4	11 3/4	11 1/4
Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

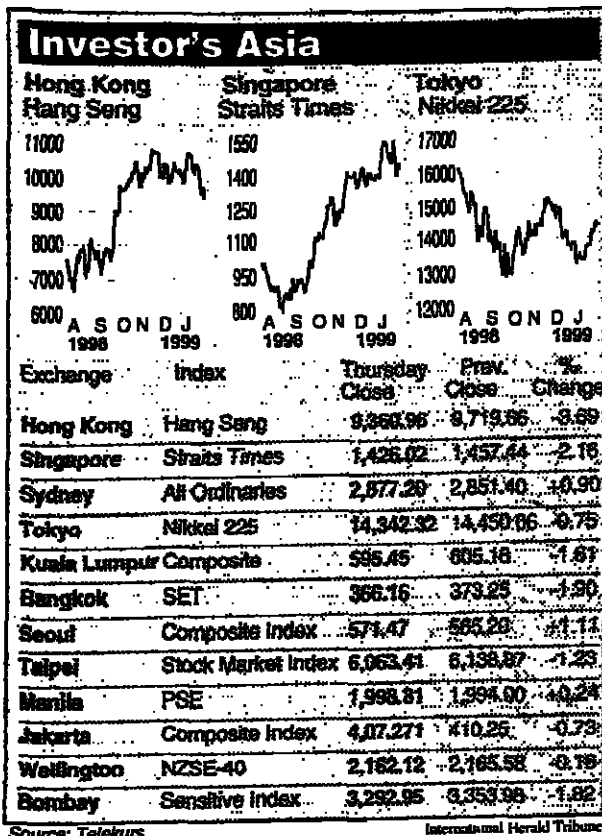
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Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

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Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
IBM		4.8	15	125 1/4	124 3/4	125 1/4
Microsoft		3.2	25	56 1/4	55 3/4	56 1/4
Oracle		4.2	20	48 1/4	47 3/4	48 1/4
Amazon.com		1.2	10	10 1/4	10 3/4	10 1/4
Google		1.5	12	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
Yahoo		1.8	14	18 1/4	18 3/4	18 1/4
Alibaba		1.0	11	11 1/4	11 3/4	11 1/4
Facebook		1.1	13	13 1/4	13 3/4	13 1/4
Twitter		1.3	15	15 1/4	15 3/4	15 1/4
LinkedIn		1.4	16	16 1/4	16 3/4	16 1/4

ASIA/PACIFIC

Kim Vows to End All Investment Red Tape



Very briefly:

- Central Investment Holding Co., a business arm of Taiwan's governing Nationalist Party, led a group of companies that bought a 22.5 percent stake in Pan Asia Bank for 2.65 billion Taiwan dollars (\$82 million), bringing one of Taiwan's weakest banks under de facto government control.
- Philippine Airlines Inc., trying to prevent the confiscation of its aircraft, plans to pay \$38 million to creditors who helped finance its fleet.
- Southeast Asia's tourism industry has cut 2 million workers as recession in the region has hurt travel, figures from the World Travel and Tourism Council showed.
- Japanese auto production fell 8.4 percent in December from a year earlier, closing the industry's worst year in decades as domestic sales plummeted and exports within Asia plunged.
- Toshiba Corp. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. will join forces to try to cope with global competition in developing and producing large-capacity motors for industrial use.
- Hong Kong's deficit in visible trade, which excludes intangibles such as services, narrowed in 1998 to \$1.44 billion dollars (\$10.51 billion) from \$1.94 billion dollars in 1997.
- Singapore's industrial output posted its first rise in eight months in December, gaining 2.7 percent over the previous year, as a surge in chemical production offset a drop in electronics.

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — President Kim Dae Jung, hoping to persuade foreign companies to invest \$15 billion in South Korea this year, promised Thursday to cut all regulations hindering foreign investment by the end of the year.

Mr. Kim made the pledge before several hundred foreign business people, diplomats and journalists at a luncheon celebrating what he and his aides clearly viewed as South Korea's triumph over the worst of the economic crisis that almost bankrupted the country in late 1997.

Since his inauguration as president last February, he said, he had

cut by half what he said were "11,000 regulations" that made life difficult for foreign companies operating in South Korea.

"This year we will make sure the regulations are all abolished," he said.

Mr. Kim's remarks — and the atmosphere of the lavish luncheon in the Blue House, the center of presidential power here — underlined the shift in outlook toward foreign interests that he has sought to bring about during his presidency.

"Koreans in the past have had a very negative attitude toward foreign investment," Mr. Kim said. "That is because we are a homogeneous nation."

He maintained, however, that his

government had managed "to convince Korean people" of the need to view foreign business positively. Foreign direct investment rose 27 percent in 1998, to \$8.85 billion.

"The dominant part of the Korean people welcome foreign investment," Mr. Kim said. "Please come in. We want to make an environment most favorable to foreign capital."

Mr. Kim held luncheon amid increasing signs here that the economy has rebounded. Some of the business people at the luncheon warned, however, of the danger of overconfidence while the country coped with rising unemployment and the reluctance of the country's massive conglomerates, or *chaebol*, to restructure or downsize significantly.

"We have the risk of declaring success prematurely," said James Rooney, president of Ssangyong Templeton Investment Management Co. "Korea's credibility rests on recognizing the huge restructuring task that lies ahead."

At the same time, Mr. Rooney said, "There's no clear focus on delivering growth or shareholder profit."

The greatest single concern, Mr. Rooney said, is that "we will lose competitiveness by premature strengthening" of the won. The South Korean currency sank to nearly 2,000 to the dollar 13 months ago, but has been gaining value ever since; it traded Thursday in New York at 1,175.70 to the dollar.



Kim Dae Jung, who tells foreign investors, "Please come in."

Fuji Bank to Absorb Ailing Yasuda Trust

TOKYO — Fuji Bank Ltd. said Thursday that it would turn Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. into a subsidiary by buying 300 billion yen (\$2.59 billion) of Yasuda's common and preferred shares.

The purchase, which will take place at the end of March, will raise Fuji Bank's stake in Yasuda Trust to more than 50 percent from 16.8 percent.

When the two banks are combined, they will be Japan's second-largest banking concern, with 62,579 trillion yen in assets and 365 branches.

The long-anticipated move comes as major trust banks are cutting costs and revamping businesses under government pressure to improve profits in return for public aid.

The two banks said the takeover would reduce costs and bolster annual profit by an estimated 30 billion yen starting in four years. The banks will share computer centers, software development costs and other back-office expenses, they said.

Yasuda, which is heavily burdened by nonperforming loans, is a member of the Fuyo corporate group.

"Fuji Bank is the core bank of the Fuyo group," said Noriomi Kunishige of Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, "and in

order to maintain the group and the bank's credibility, Fuji Bank is not allowed to let troubled Yasuda Trust go bankrupt."

Mr. Kunishige said Yasuda had bowed to the inevitable takeover after the Financial Reconstruction Commission, a new bank reform authority, warned that banks that had not restructured their operations would be closed.

"It is good for Yasuda Trust," said Katsuhito Sasajima of Warburg Dillon Read, "as it means Fuji will take care of it from now on. However, I doubt whether this is good for Fuji."

After Fuji Bank's announcement, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said it may raise Yasuda's credit rating, now at Ba1.

With the extra capital from Fuji Bank, Yasuda Trust said it would no longer need to apply for government funds in the year that ends in March. Yasuda Trust, along with 14 other major Japanese lenders, said last year that it would ask for money from a 25 trillion yen bank bailout fund to replenish capital after writing off bad loans.

Fuji Bank and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. said in November that they would merge their trust banking subsidiaries April 1. The two banks also agreed to buy three Yasuda Trust businesses, in-

cluding its pension fund management and its securities custodian service.

Financial sources said Japan's Financial Supervisory Agency had pressed Fuji Bank to make Yasuda Trust a subsidiary to help Yasuda obtain public funds in order to recapitalize. A Fuji Bank spokesman said the bank might ask for more government aid than the 700 billion yen it indicated it would seek in November.

Fuji Bank finished 7 yen lower at 486, while Yasuda Trust dropped 1 to 92. The purchase was announced after the Japanese stock market closed.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Japan Output Rise Called a Blip

Japan's industrial production rose unexpectedly in December, but this appeared to be a blip, as output for all of 1998 posted its worst drop in 23 years, government data showed Thursday, Reuters reported.

Output rose 1.3 percent in December from November, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said, well above the ministry's prediction of 0.3 percent. But analysts said the improvement was largely a result of public works spending, not private demand, and the ministry acknowledged that the data had not shown any recovery trend.

In Japan, GMAC Seeks Property-Backed Loans

TOKYO — General Motors Acceptance Corp., a financial-services unit of the world's largest automaker, has budgeted \$1 billion to buy Japanese bad loans backed by property, a lawyer for GMAC in Tokyo said Thursday.

It would be the company's first venture into real-estate investment in Japan, said the lawyer, Koichi Nakata, who last week accompanied GMAC officials to meet representatives of banks and casualty insurers.

"We'll be talking to some companies about specifics ahead of March 31, the end of the business year," Mr. Nakata said.

The move puts GMAC alongside Credit Suisse First Boston and other U.S. and European investors who are using Japan's financial crisis as an opportunity to shop for real-estate-backed loans at bargain prices. Japanese banks are saddled with trillions of yen in unrecoverable loans that they need to get off their books as soon as possible.

U.S. investors spent about \$6 billion last year on bad loans backed by property in Japan, according to an estimate by Ernst & Young Kenneth Leventhal's Asia real-estate group.

Those loans were bought for as little as 10 percent of book value, the company said.

Japanese banks are particularly anxious to purge their books of bad loans now, since the government took over Nippon Credit Bank Ltd., saying the bank had more losses than it could cover with capital.

GMAC will develop and manage the property it buys rather than resell it for a fast profit, Mr. Nakata said. It may later invest in other types of property, he said.

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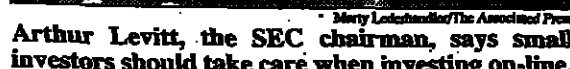
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On-Line Stock Trading Soars to a Record — but So Do Complaints



By the end of this year, about 10 million brokerage accounts are expected to be able to trade electronically, nearly twice as many as are now trading on the World Wide Web.

The stunning growth of on-line trading has already transformed Wall Street, sharply reducing commission costs, increasing the speed of trading and mak-

to reduce the problems and insulate themselves from possible harm, many companies are posting disclaimers and statements about trading problems caused by volatility and high trading volume on their Web sites. Those statements were posted even before the National Association of Securities Dealers issued a notice Tuesday recommending that member firms begin to take steps to educate investors about delays and other trading problems.

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(Formerly Puritas Administratiekantoor B.V.)

Amsterdam, 26 January, 1999

Nancy Smith, director of investor education at the Securities and Exchange Commission, said that the most common complaints involved investors

Other complaints, she said, reflected the fact that investors had moved with a few clicks of the personal computer's mouse into securities that, upon reflection, should never have been purchased, and still others were from consumers who thought they had canceled their purchases, only to learn that their orders had not actually been canceled.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Pakistan in a Spin

CRICKET Anil Kumble, an Indian spin bowler, took six wickets Thursday as Pakistan was all out for 238 in Madras on the opening day of the first test against India.

Kumble, who finished with six for 70, and Javagal Srinath, a medium-pace bowler who took three for 63, made full use of the hard, bouncy pitch.

At the close, India had reached 48 without loss in its first innings.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, was found guilty Thursday of improper conduct and given a six-match ban, suspended for 12 months, and fined 75 percent of his match fee by an International Cricket Council disciplinary panel.

Ranatunga led his team off the field when Mutiah Muralitharan, a Sri Lankan spin bowler, was no-balled in a one-day match Saturday in Adelaide, Australia. (Reuters)

Russians Take Control

SKATING Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsianikov kept Russia on track for its third consecutive sweep of European Figure Skating Championships titles by taking the original dance section of the ice dance competition Thursday.

Krylova and Ovsianikov gave a fast-flowing presentation to music from "La Traviata." Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat of France were second.

Russia claimed the first title of the championships Wednesday night when Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov won the pairs competition.

Russians held the first three places in the women's competition going into the short program Friday. (AP)

Milwaukee Signs Abbott

BASEBALL The Milwaukee Brewers and the St. Louis Cardinals dipped into the cheaper end of the free-agent pool.

The Brewers signed Jim Abbott to a \$600,000, one-year contract. The one-handed pitcher will have to bat for the first time since high school.

The Cardinals signed Carlos Baerga, an infielder whose career slumped in the last three years, to a \$1.25 million, one-year deal. (AP)

Bordeaux Buys and Sells

SOCCER Bordeaux of the French first division bought one striker Thursday and was poised to sell another. It acquired Ivan Perez from Real Betis of Seville for an undisclosed fee. He signed a four-and-a-half year contract. Perez, who plays under the name of Ivan, turns 23 Friday.

Arsenal of the English Premier League said it expects to complete the signing of Kaba Diawara, a French under-21 player, from Bordeaux by the weekend for a reported \$3 million (\$4.95 million).

John Harkes returned to England on Thursday, where the former U.S. captain joined Nottingham Forest. Harkes, who plays for D.C. United in the United States, will stay with Forest at least until the end of March. (AFP, Reuters)

Duke Beats Tar Heels

BASKETBALL William Avery scored 21 points as Duke, ranked No. 2 among U.S. colleges, beat North Carolina, ranked No. 10, 89-77, Wednesday night. (AP)

From Forlorn to Glittering: A Game's Drive to Glory

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Service

M IAMI — The last Super Bowl of the 20th century is Sunday, and many of the people who either witnessed or helped plan the first one 32 years ago readily admit they did not foresee the gargantuan impact the National Football League's championship game has had on the sport or, for that matter, on the world of sports.

"I look around, and it still amazes me," said Don Weiss, who was director of communications for the NFL in 1967 when teams from his league and the upstart American Football League played for the first time.

The excitement and buzz before Sunday's game between the Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons is very different from the somewhat forlorn atmosphere surrounding the first game, at the Los Angeles Coliseum between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. That was the only Super Bowl that was not sold out, with close to 32,000 seats staying empty at the 93,000-seat Coliseum. Planning for the contest didn't even start until two months before the opening kickoff, while details of the merger between the two leagues were still being ironed out in Washington.

Weiss recalled that no more than 10 people from the league, including sev-

eral outside consultants, worked on producing that first Super Bowl. Now retired, Weiss is involved as a part-timer among a staff of more than 200 working on the game here this week.

"We didn't get the go-ahead until October," Weiss said. "We hadn't even picked the site, and we didn't know who was going to televise it. There was still a local blackout rule in effect, and the media in Los Angeles kept writing that



it was going to be lifted, and it really hurt ticket sales. In fact, the first five Super Bowls were blacked out locally and shown on tape delay at midnight."

Tickets in 1967 were priced between \$6 and \$12 each, compared with \$325 for the game Sunday, which was sold out months in advance.

In 1967, a one-minute advertisement on U.S. television cost \$80,000 in a game aired by both CBS, the NFL's rights holder, and NBC, the AFL's network.

This year, Fox, which is showing the game in the United States, will get \$1.6 million for each 30-second advertisement and long ago sold out its \$93 million inventory. It will earn a further \$45 million from an unprecedented seven-hour pregame show. NBC used four cameras that first year; Fox will have a record 31 on Sunday.

There were no hospitality tents for the first game. This week, there will be 35 tents outside Pro Player Stadium, with some companies spending as much as \$5 million to party and 200 corporations claiming some link to the game.

In 1967, the NFL issued 338 media credentials — 600 if you counted TV technical support. This year, more than 3,000 have been given out. The telecast will be carried in more than 100 countries, with Fox expecting 135 million U.S. viewers and a worldwide audience of more than 800 million.

T HE NAME Super Bowl wasn't attached to the game until its third year, accompanied by the famously fulfilled Joe Namath guarantee that his New York Jets would beat the Baltimore Colts. The daughter of the Kansas City owner, Lamar Hunt, was playing with what was then called a "super ball," and the story goes that Hunt persuaded his fellow owners to rename their game, previously referred

to as the NFL-AFL Championship, with a slight variation from the name of that bouncing ball.

According to Weiss, Pete Rozelle, the NFL commissioner at the time, wasn't wild about the use of "super" because he considered it a cliché. But both networks had used "Super Sunday" in their promotion of the first two games, and Rozelle went along.

Rozelle also wanted an extra week between the conference championships games and this finale to help build public interest.

"It was as calculated a decision as was ever made by the league," said Tex Schramm, the former president of the Dallas Cowboys. "The idea was to give the game time to build. That allowed us time to get the teams in early, to make them available, to make sure the media got everything it needed to tell the world about our game."

The Namath game clearly had a huge impact. A year later, Weiss said Rozelle knew the league was on to something special when he was able to announce at a news conference the day after Super Bowl IV between Minnesota and Kansas City that the ratings had surpassed those of the first walk on the moon by the astronaut Neil Armstrong the previous summer.

In the years since, eight of the 15 all-time top-rated U.S. TV programs have

been Super Bowls, led by Game XVI between San Francisco and Cincinnati with a 49.1 rating. Nine of the 10 most watched sports programs of all time have been Super Bowls; the only exception is the Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan skating soap opera in the 1994 Winter Olympics, in third place.

O NE FACET that has never changed has been the pressure to win. Lee Remmel, now the Green Bay Packers' public-relations director, was a reporter covering the first Super Bowl for the Green Bay Press-Gazette. He recalled that the Packers' coach, Vince Lombardi, was particularly on edge before his team beat Kansas City in the first title game.

"I remember wide receiver Max McGee telling me it was the most uptight he'd ever seen Lombardi," Remmel said. "All the owners had been telling him that he couldn't lose the game because it would damage the prestige of the old established league if he lost to the upstart league. That really bothered him."

After they won, the media kept goading him to compare the Chiefs to other teams in the league. Finally he said, "Damn it, there are probably four or five teams in our league better than the Chiefs. Now are you satisfied?" That got a lot of coverage, and it helped get the interest up for the next year, too.

Sharpe Decides The Super Bowl Is Not the Place To Mince Words

By Michael Wilbon
Washington Post Service

M IAMI — The question put to Shannon Sharpe was when, exactly, did he begin to run his mouth like this.

"I was always a talker," he said. "You just don't wake up one morning and say, 'I think I want to talk a little more.' Some are better at it than others."

Sharpe, the Denver Broncos' all-pro tight end, may one day be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But he's already in the Talkers Hall of Fame, a unanimous first-ballot selection.

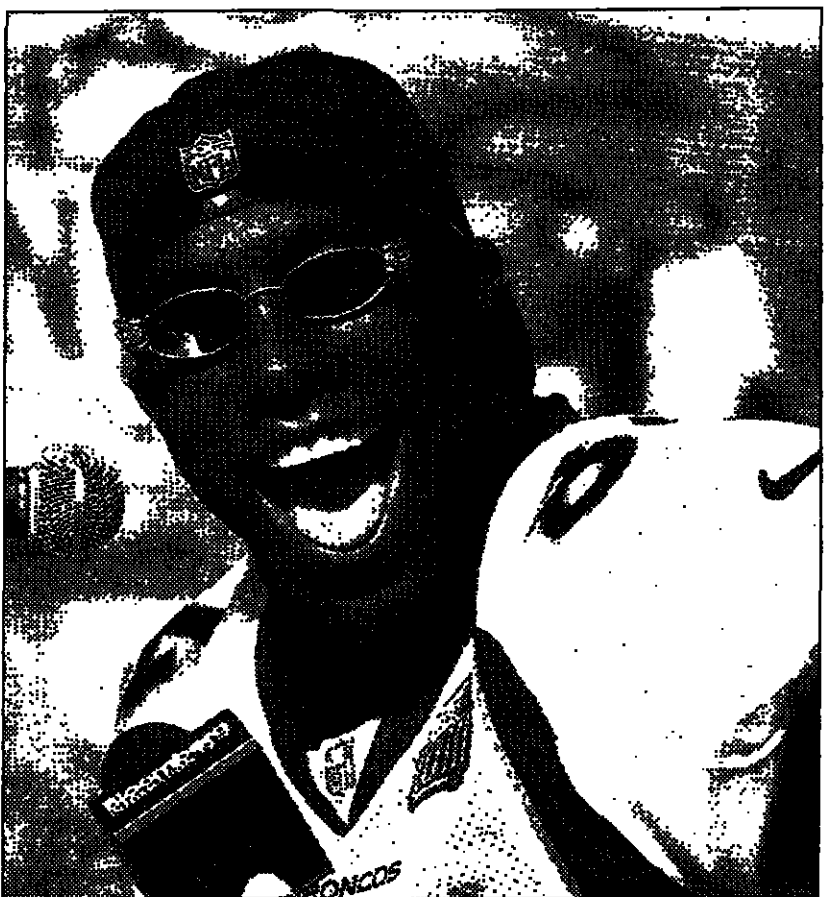
"I was a talker back in elementary school. I used to get A's and B's in everything, but I got an F in conduct. I had a speech class in elementary school. And you know how teachers, when a kid is struggling to pronounce a word, used to lead him and say, 'Johnny, sounds like ... ? Johnny, sounds like ... ?' I said out loud, 'Sounds like Johnny can't read.' Teacher told me to leave the room."

The Miami Dolphins recently have replaced "Johnny" on the wrong end of Sharpe's razor-sharp tongue, ever since the Broncos laid a 38-3 whipping on Miami in a playoff game. Sharpe said before the game that the Dolphins were 10 to 14 points better than the Dolphins, and that come the final week of January, "The Dolphins will be kicked out of their own home and Mike Shanahan will be in Jimmy Johnson's office."

When Sharpe said he regretted calling Dan Marino a "loser" after that game, it provided a questioner with the chance to ask if there were any other boundaries Sharpe had, places he simply wouldn't go.

"I don't talk mothers, wives or girlfriends," he said. "I won't do that. Now, if you have a deformity, I will talk about that."

Sharpe on the sliding Dallas Cow-



Shannon Sharpe enjoying himself in an interview before the Super Bowl.

boys: "They've gone from America's Team to America's 'Most Wanted' Team. The current champion is America's Team. We're the champ. We went 14-2. When Secretariat was 21 lengths in front, nobody went to the window and said, 'I'm putting \$2 on the second-place horse.'"

Sharpe on why he didn't root for the Falcons even though he grew up close to Atlanta: "What did I think of the Falcons? If you had a pair of cleats, they'd put you in the game. For \$20 you could sit in the luxury box with the owner."

Sharpe on the reception he gets on the road: "Most fans outside Denver don't like me, and for good reason. I give them every reason not to like me."

Sharpe on the fact that his offensive linemen don't like it when he makes comments that fire up opposing defenses: "Our offensive line coach fines me every time I say something to the op-

posing defensive line. But the D-linemen can't get to me. I'm lined up too wide. I keep moving out wider until they really can't get me, then I laugh at them."

The Miami Herald reached Sharpe's 76-year-old grandmother, Mary Porter, the woman who raised him. "Unless he was sleeping," she said, "he was always running his mouth about something. He likes to act up. He gets a kick out of talking."

Last year at the Super Bowl, Sharpe said, "If the Packers try to cover me one-on-one and beat my butt, then I will renounce my citizenship, move out of the country and leave all of my assets to your account."

Sharpe caught a team-high five passes, Denver won its first Super Bowl, and Sharpe said afterward: "People bet the farm that Green Bay would beat us by 12, and you know what? They're homeless."

The Shanahan Goal: Perfection Every Play

Coach Is a Genius at the Game, Broncos Say

By Charlie Nobles
New York Times Service

M IAMI — Terrell Davis is splendid. John Elway is like fine wine and Bill Romanowski leads a ferocious defense. But with the Denver Broncos, they are chess pieces in Coach Mike Shanahan's head, to be artfully used on game day.

Much of the Broncos' success since 1995 can be traced to the hiring of Shanahan, who seems to be an all-in-one boss. He is a distinguished offensive mind, but he also oversees the team's defense, drafts players, makes trades and negotiates contracts.

All with one pursuit in mind — perfection.

"We're not late for meetings, we're not late for lifting weights, we practice plays until we get them right," said Tony Jones, an offensive tackle. "Everything has to be dead on schedule or Mike lets us know about it."

Pat Bowen, the team owner, loves the mind-set that Shanahan has created with his players. As the Broncos' owner tells it, one of the team's charter flights this season was a minute late departing.

Shanahan was furious. This is a man who has been known to script his family's vacations down to the minute of each day. While an assistant coach at the University of Florida in the early 1980s, he would insist that his quarterbacks redraw a diagram whenever they had the line of scrimmage crooked.

He is never without felt-tipped pens, better to scheme up another play or think of another slogan to post in the locker room.

"I call him the Mastermind," said John Mobley, a Denver linebacker. "He always seems two or three steps ahead of everybody else."

Steve Atwater, the veteran safety, said the label "genius" fits Shanahan. "The longer I'm around him, the more I realize he's a guy who knows football inside and out," Atwater said.

"If there's a situation, no matter what it is, he knows how to deal with it."

The man with the icy glare has created distinguished offenses everywhere he has been — and particularly at Florida, then in stints as offensive coordinator with the Broncos and the San Francisco 49ers and during the past three seasons, as head coach at Denver.

The Broncos are 43-10 during his tenure, including 16-2 heading into Sunday's Super Bowl against the Atlanta Falcons.

Shanahan admits to a risk-taking side. He has bungee-jumped, experimented with hang gliding and this past Christmas bought a motorcycle. But in his work he tries to take the risk out of games.

"We run our plays in practice to be perfect," Jones said. "It's no 'We'll get it next week' or 'We'll get it next year.' We run every play to be a perfect play. That's what makes our offense so good. We go out there knowing that every play has to be like the last play — perfect."

Elway, the team's 38-year-old quarterback, said Shanahan won't yell at him, possibly in deference to his distinguished career, but often will use the offensive coordinator, Gary Kubiak, to get his message across.

Still, the quarterback calls Shanahan a players' coach.

"That doesn't necessarily mean he has to be buddy-buddy," Elway said. "A players' coach is a coach the players like, but he's not buddy-buddy with anybody. He's the boss."

Shanahan, who two years ago began having a buffet breakfast served to his players before meetings after he saw too many of them eating junk food, accepts the "players' coach" tag.

"To me, if you do the little things for people, they know, and they'll do them for you," he said. "In return, when the game is on the line and you're asking them to do something they might not want to do, then they want to do it for you because they know you care about them."

In Knicks Debut, Sprewell Stages a Great Comeback

By William Gildea
Washington Post Service

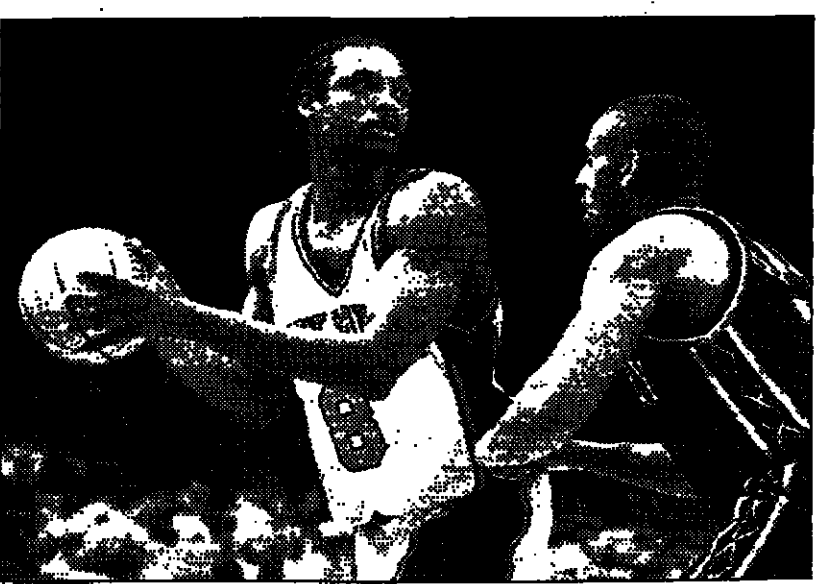
N EW YORK — The lights at Madison Square Garden were dimmed for the introduction of the New York Knicks' starting lineup. Fans who filled most of the Garden seats applauded politely for the first three Knicks, but when the fourth trotted on to the court they sent up a sustained roar of welcome. This was their new No. 8, the one they had been talking about for almost a week since he had been acquired, the one they had

Carlesimo, and was suspended the rest of the season (68 games). "Almost 14 months — it felt like an eternity," Sprewell told scores of reporters crowded in front of his locker. "I didn't feel too good early on. I was really rusty. In the second half I tried to relax and not force anything. I took some poor shots in the first half, but in the second half I really felt good."

The fans got behind him as Garden fans have been known to do when they get emotional. They watched him intently, cheered when he touched the ball for the first time three minutes into the game, responded more loudly 35 seconds later when he sank a 15-footer for his first points as a Knick. Sprewell's trademark comrows bobbed against his neck as he descended to the hardwood, but if he felt relief that he was on the scoreboard for the home team in this renowned arena, he revealed no emotion.

But by late in the third period, he could no longer hide his happiness. He exchanged high-fives and chest bumps with the teammates he had pumped with joy. By the fourth period, he had propelled the Knicks to a 16-point lead. But he shied from taking credit, thanking teammates for setting him up and the fans for their support.

"Even when I wasn't playing well in the first half, they were behind me," he said. "I was loving that. I wouldn't turn it down for anything." Sprewell smiled. He hadn't smiled like that in a long time. Still, Knicks Coach Jeff Van Gundy — and who could blame him? — preferred



Latrell Sprewell keeping the ball away from Lucious Harris of the Nets.

a let's-see-and-see approach. "He did some good things," the coach said in understatement.

The 6-foot-5 Sprewell, 28, was banned for one year and had his contract terminated by the Warriors, but an arbitrator reduced the suspension to 68 games and reinstated the last two years of his contract, worth \$17.3 million.

Sprewell was an all-star in three of his six seasons at Golden State, with a career scoring average of 20.1. The Madison Square Garden chief executive officer, Dave Checketts, and the Knicks president, Ernie Grunfeld, believed they couldn't pass up the chance to add Sprewell's scoring ability in exchange for John Starks, Chris Mills and Terry Cummings. Sprewell's New York debut coincided with the departure of a re-

spected 17-year veteran, Buck Williams, who announced his retirement Wednesday, came out of Maryland to play eight seasons with the Nets, seven in Portland and two with the Knicks.

"I always wanted to be a good role model," Williams said. "I think players have an obligation to the public to carry themselves in a certain way. I've never wanted to embarrass myself, the organization or my family. My father always told me, a good name means more than a million dollars."

In Wednesday's other preseason game, The Associated Press reported: Cavaliers 86, Pistons 82. Litteral Green scored four of his five points down the stretch as Cleveland hung on for a victory at Detroit in a ragged exhibition game.

Bure Is a Smash at Home As Panthers Triumph, 2-1

The Associated Press

Playing in his first home game for the Panthers, Pavel Bure set up Oleg Kvascha's game-winning goal at 6:18 of the third period as Florida topped the Montreal Canadiens.

"It's great to play in front of fans that really support us," Bure said after he was cheered every time he touched the puck in Florida's 2-1 victory Wednesday night. "First of all, I'm really happy we won."

Bure, who has six goals and one assist in four games since joining the Panthers on Jan. 17, also hit the crossbar and failed to score on a breakaway. Florida is 3-0-1 with Bure and trails first-place Carolina by one point in the Southeast Division.

The game-winner came after a delayed penalty was called on the Canadiens. Bure backhanded a pass to Kvascha, whose wrist shot from the slot beat the Montreal goaltender, Jeff Hackett, for his eighth goal of the season with 13:42 left in the third period.

"We knew he would want to put on a display with all the media attention he's been getting," said Alain Vigneault, the Montreal coach.

Bure seemed fatigued after playing more than 30 minutes in his three-goal game against the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday. He didn't have a shot on net Wednesday until 18:26 of the second period when Jeff Hackett snared his point-blank blast.

The fans saved their loudest cheers for Bure's penalty-killing clearing passes during a two-man Canadiens advantage in the second period.

Bure came alive in the third with his wrist shot that hit the crossbar. He then set up Kvascha for his first assist as a Panther.

Stars 3, Kings 2 In Dallas, Brian Skrudland and Joe Nieuwendyk scored third-period goals as the Stars remained unbeaten against Los Angeles over the past four seasons.

With the game tied at 1-1, Skrudland scored on a rebound of Dave Reid's shot with 15:42 to play to help extend the Stars' unbeaten string against the Kings to 14 games.

Blackhawks 4, Oilers 3 Tony Amonte's second goal of the game, with eight seconds left in overtime, was the game-winner as Chicago won in Edmonton to move out of last place in the Western Conference.

Nelson Emerson and Ed Olczyk also scored for Chicago, which extended its undefeated streak to four games and moved one point ahead of idle Calgary. Janne Niinimaa scored his first goal of the season and Pat Falloon and Ryan Smyth added tallies for the Oilers, who rallied from a 3-0 deficit to force overtime.

Avalanche 4, Mighty Ducks 3 Peter Forsberg had a goal and two assists and season to put Colorado ahead of first goal of the season in Anaheim. It was the Avalanche's sixth straight victory.

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Unseeded Wonder Serves Davenport a Defeat

MELBOURNE — The brushfire that has transformed unseeded men's tennis players into world-beaters jumped genders on Thursday, as Lindsay Davenport was scorched in the semifinals of the Australian Open by a French 19-year-old named Amelie Mauresmo.

Mauresmo upset the No. 1 seed, 4-6, 7-5, 5-3, on a humid afternoon to earn a place in the final of the year's first Grand Slam tournament Saturday against Martina Hingis, the No. 2 seed.

Hingis became the first person to beat Monica Seles in the Australian Open, winning 6-2, 6-4, in straightforward fashion. Seles, who had won this tournament on her four previous visits, is 33-1 in Melbourne, but in the wake of Mauresmo's remarkable victory that was little more than a detail.

"Every time I got my foot through the door and thought I was going to get through to the end, it got shut on my foot," Davenport said. "It's disappointing. I haven't had a match slip through my hands in a long time, so it's hard to take, especially in the semifinals."

The match was a struggle from the beginning. Trailing 0-1, Davenport had to save five break points just to hold her serve. She would soon take a 5-2 lead, frequently

Australian Open / CHRISTOPHER CLAREY

forcing the French teenager onto her back foot with flat power from the baseline. But when Davenport served for the set, she was broken as Mauresmo fired a forehand return winner crosscourt.

The tall Californian closed out the set but she was unable to win another against the athletic Mauresmo, ranked 29th but not for long. Mauresmo's aggressive groundstrokes, well-struck first serves and line-to-line court coverage created problem after problem for Davenport, the U.S. Open champion.

Davenport was not as sharp or cocksure as she has been on hard courts in recent months. She made nearly as many unforced errors as winners and missed several short forehands. She was also negative, dropping her racquet on occasion in frustration, but that was partly because Mauresmo succeeded in playing tricks with Davenport's rhythm and confidence.

In their one previous meeting, Mauresmo beat Davenport on clay at the German Open last spring on her way to the final. That tournament, for which Mauresmo had to qualify, represented Mauresmo's breakthrough as a professional, and

though she did not continue to win consistently. Yannick Noah, then the French captain, thought highly enough of her abilities to select her to play Fed Cup singles against Switzerland in July, passing over Nathalie Tauziat, the Wimbledon finalist.

It was Noah's emotional victory at the French Open in 1983 that convinced Mauresmo at the age of 4 that she wanted to be a tennis player. "My dream was always to be a Grand Slam champion," she said. "And so, in a way, deep inside me, I knew that I would make it to this level."

Like Noah, she spent several years living on the grounds at Stade Roland Garros, the site of the French Open, as a boarder in the French Federation's development program. She has developed into a physically striking figure with her strong chin and muscular shoulders, which look all the broader in the sleeveless shirt she has been wearing in Melbourne.

"A couple of times, I thought 'I was playing a guy,'" Davenport said. "The girl was hitting it so hard, so strong, and I would look over there and she's strong in the shoulders, those shoulders."

Coming from Davenport, who stands 6 foot 2 (1.88 meters) and is one of the hardest hitters in the history of women's tennis, that was quite a statement. She did not stop there. "I can't believe she's 19. Muscular. Everyone handles it differently. Some players aren't that strong, and they're great players. Some players are obviously very strong and pretty good. I'm sure she's only going to get stronger."

In the current climate of suspicion, allusions to pronounced musculature in a female athlete can quickly raise eyebrows, but Davenport's coach, Robert Van't Hof, said his pupil's remarks were intended to be complimentary, not accusatory.

"It's clear that Amelie is one of the most athletic players in the game," Van't Hof said.

Mauresmo's game does not rely as heavily as Davenport believes on overpowering her opponent. While she can rip a gorgeous one-handed backhand with pace, she frequently slices the shot, and is adept at varying her forehand, too. Despite her top-heavy appearance, she is light on her feet. Movement is one of her strengths, and she is not afraid to take risks by pushing forward.

She has also upset No. 8 seed Patty Schnyder, No. 11 seed Dominique Van Roost and will break into the top 20 next week.

Mauresmo showed few signs of nerves on Thursday. In the third set, in which she was twice down a break, she rallied with aplomb and broke Davenport to win the match with a fine backhand passing shot down the line that she will remember even longer than Davenport. Only then did she lose her balance, dropping to her knees clenching both fists.

"She didn't kind of hesitate at all; she took it," Davenport said. "For this tournament, she is acting like a champion."

To become one, she must beat Hingis, who, despite being 14 months her junior, has already won the last two Australian Opens and three other Grand Slam singles titles. Seles's winning streak in Melbourne is over, but Hingis is alive. After her victory, she turned to Seles and said that, having ended her friend's perfect record, she was "almost not allowed to lose now."

Hingis will be the favorite on Saturday, but it bears remembering that, if the wind blows like it can in Melbourne, a brushfire can be devilishly difficult to put out.



Amelie Mauresmo celebrating after winning her semifinal against Lindsay Davenport on Thursday in Melbourne.

Enqvist Reaches His First Grand Slam Final

MELBOURNE — Thomas Enqvist of Sweden beat Nicolas Pietrangeli of Ecuador, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1, on Thursday to reach his first Grand Slam final. Enqvist will face the winner of Friday's semifinal between No. 10 seed Yevgeni Kafelnikov of Russia and Tommy Haas of Germany.

With the established stars out of the

running in the men's singles, the Australian public showed more interest in the men's doubles Thursday. Patrick Rafter, a local hero, and his partner, Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, beat the all-Australian pair of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in a five-set thriller to reach the final. Their opponents will be Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes of India, the world's top-ranked team.

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	24	10	11	59	138	90
New Jersey	26	14	5	57	133	117
Pittsburgh	20	15	7	47	125	118
N.Y. Rangers	18	21	7	43	121	125
N.Y. Islanders	15	29	3	33	110	137

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	27	16	7	61	121	112
Ottawa	25	15	6	56	134	105
Buffalo	22	13	5	54	120	87
Boston	20	20	8	47	117	101
Montreal	18	22	8	44	109	123

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	21	18	7	49	121	115
Florida	18	16	12	48	115	119
Washington	16	24	4	36	101	117
Tampa Bay	11	31	4	26	95	158

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	24	20	3	51	129	123
St. Louis	21	17	9	43	114	108
Nashville	16	26	4	36	105	147
Chicago	14	25	7	35	101	141

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	23	19	4	50	118	124
Edmonton	18	20	7	43	129	120

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

First Period: None, Second Period: None, Third Period: M-Rosebols 2 (Recchi, Carlson), 2-F-Parrish 12 (Wiedemeyer, Whitney), 3-Krueger 8 (Bum, Dwyer), 4-D-Neuwirth 10 (Mehlich, Marshall), 5-L.A., Robitaille 27 (Blake, Duchesne) (pp), 6-Forsberg 14 (Sokol, Corbett) Third Period: 1-Dwight 1 (Hagelin, Forsberg), 2-C-Selke 27 (Lamont, Forsberg) (pp), 3-A-Rucella 16 (Selanne) Shots on goal: C-12-7-3-22, A-13-9-12-34, Goals: C-Roy, A-Hobert.

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

First Period: C-Emerson 11 (Gilmour, Chelios), 2-C-Ozark 4 (Lid), Second Period: C-Anson 25 (Zemke, Gilmour), 4-E-Whitman 1 (Smyth, Wright) (pp), 5-F-Fallon 12 (Barnes, McSorley), Third Period: 7-C-Anson 26 (Gilmour, Emerson) Shots on goal: C-6-12-4-33, E-7-18-10-33, Goals: C-Talbot, E-Essner.

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WEDNESDAY RESULTS

First Period: M-Rosebols 2 (Recchi, Carlson), 2-F-Parrish 12

POSTCARD

An Atheist's Souvenirs

By Rick Lyman
New York Times Service

PLUGERVILLE, Texas — Jimmy Nassour wasn't sure why he kept raising his hand when the bidding passed the \$500 limit he'd set for himself.

"I guess I got caught up in the moment," he said.

The auctioneer, Bob Sheehan, held aloft the small, white Bible, a gift from students at Winifred Heights Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Dec. 15, 1968, to Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the atheist leader who once described herself as "the most hated woman in America."

The bidding shot past \$500, then \$1,000 and Nas-sour hung in there.

Finally, the bidders fell away and he found himself the owner of Madalyn Murray O'Hair's Bible for \$2,000.

All around the dimly lighted, white-metal barn on the northeast fringe of the Austin suburbs were garbage bags full of clothes and cardboard boxes and bric-a-brac and dusty pieces of furniture — the biggest garage sale you ever saw. Chinese dolls. Bronze cowboys. Stacks of videotapes. Souvenirs from world travels. Pots and pans. Highball glasses, decanters, collectible whisky bottles. And dozens of boxes of books.

This was all that remained of the worldly possessions of O'Hair, who disappeared from her Austin office in September 1995 with her granddaughter, Robin Murray-O'Hair, and one of her sons, Jon Garth Murray, leaving behind the family's three dogs, O'Hair's medications and a 1985 Porsche parked at the Austin airport.

The authorities were able to trace them, from cell phone

calls and bank records, as far as San Antonio, where \$500,000 was withdrawn from one of the bank accounts of American Atheists Inc., the movement O'Hair founded after becoming a national figure with a 1963 lawsuit that effectively removed prayer from public schools.

Since then, nothing. Not a hint.

The authorities say they have no idea where the three are. Some people believe they were robbed and killed, others think they may still be alive, fleeing creditors, perhaps in New Zealand, where they were said to have bank accounts. If so, O'Hair would be 79, her son 44 and her granddaughter 33.

The auction held Saturday came after the federal government confiscated the contents of O'Hair's home to pay some of the \$250,000 she owed in back taxes and to other creditors.

O'Hair's private papers were not part of the auction. They sit in a safe-deposit box in an Austin bank a block away from the office of Ronald Ingalls, the attorney who is handling their separate sale.

The diaries are a sad chronicle of a yearning, unhappy life. O'Hair, bitter that her dreams of political influence never blossomed, had harsh judgments of almost everyone around her, often singling out Jews and gays and blacks. She dreamed for such things as a "luxury apartment," a mink coat and a Cadillac.

"This living is the pattern of it," she wrote in April 1953. "Work, hope—dream, realizing there is not much hope the dreams will become realization. Yet always the future invites, promises."

Miss or Ms.? In Britain, They're Fighting Words

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

CARDIFF, Wales — Liz Shankland, a 35-year-old public relations executive here, was thrilled to marry her longtime love, Gerald Toms, last November. But she was not thrilled when people started to call her by the name of a person she does not believe exists.

"At parties, people would say, 'This is Gerry Toms' — and this is his wife, Mrs. Toms," she related. "They didn't even give me a Christian name. And when I said my name was Liz Shankland, they'd say: 'You can't do that. You're really Mrs. Toms.'"

The comments grew more extreme. "One woman said to me, 'Don't you think you're being rather disrespectful and rude?'" Ms. Shankland recalled — and so she decided extreme measures were called for.

The new bride, a former reporter and editor at The Western Mail here who knows the value of a well-timed media offensive, decided to take the unusual step of buying a classified ad in her old paper.

"Although she has now publicly pledged undying love for her husband, she has not changed her name to 'Mrs. Toms,'" the ad said.

"Instead, she will continue to be known — personally and professionally — as Ms. Liz Shankland, and makes no apology to the misguided fuddy-duddies who believe that to be strange or unconventional."

In its small way, Ms. Shankland's situation illustrates a larger phenomenon in Britain. It is sometimes hard, women say, to persuade people that you don't want to take the name of your husband (if you have one). And it is sometimes hard to get people to call you Ms. — a word that, while in wide use in some professions, still seems to carry connotations of the stereotypical bra-burning, man-bashing, non-leg-shaving feminists who apparently so terrorized British men in the 1960s and '70s.

"They just can't cope with Ms.," said Margaret Blott, a London obstetrician in her 30s who felt compelled to use Miss when she began practicing medicine. (Under the British system, many of the highest-qualified doctors don't call themselves Dr.) Miss Blott, the only Miss in a sea of Mr.'s on the front door of her elegant Harley Street office, said she would have much preferred Ms. but didn't want to unsettle anyone in the conservative medical establishment.

"People make all sorts of assumptions when you use Miss," she said. "They come in and expect someone who's 60 years old. On the other hand, Ms. does have connotations of aggressive feminist overtones, and a lot of people don't like it."

Why not? Kathy Lette, an expatriate Australian novelist who has made a career of poking fun at the stodgy ways of British males, said it's sexism, pure and simple. "When I say I want to be called Ms. Lette," said Ms. Lette, who is married to one of Britain's most respected human-rights lawyers, Geoffrey Robertson, "they either ignore me, or they just go ahead and call me Mrs. Robertson, or Mrs. Lette. When you make an issue out of it, they look at you like you've turned into Lorena Bobbitt."

Despite their trappings of enlightenment, she said, British men are unreconstructed cave-dwellers.

"Women here have been lulled into a false sense of security," she said. "When I moved here, I thought I'd come to New Man land. The men talked about gardening and opera and quoted huge whacks of poetry. They knew Shakespeare's sonnets by heart. I thought, 'Oh, they're so sensitive.' But it's a big scam — they're just as sexist as Australian men, but it's much more hidden."

Part of the problem, it seems, is that Britain has always resisted what it sees as American-style political correctness, a term derided as describing a ridiculously tortured sensitivity that has resulted



No feminist, Liz Shankland merely wanted to keep her name.

in absurd changes to the language. Britons are loath to demonstrate such sensitivity, or to make such changes, themselves. Thus, women who deliver the mail here are still called postmen, even if they happen to be female mail carriers. Michael Portillo, the former Tory defense minister, was routinely re-

ferred to as "the Spaniard" in newspaper reports, a reference to the fact that his father was a Spanish immigrant, and nobody seemed to object.

Feminism is a highly charged concept here, as it is to some in the United States, and many women seem almost physically afraid of the

term. Margaret Jay, the leader of the House of Lords, recently declared in an interview with The Guardian that she was not a feminist, even though one of her jobs is to run the government's Women's Unit, which deals with issues like education, child care and equal pay.

"In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things," said Lady Jay, who as a bona fide baroness since her elevation to the House of Lords no longer has to bother deciding whether she wants to be Mrs., Ms. or Miss.

Even Ms. Shankland, who so objected to being seen as what she calls "part and parcel of my husband," balks at the label. She deliberately tried to make her ad playfully hyperbolic, she said, "so that people wouldn't think I was one of those raving feminists who doesn't agree with anything."

"I believe in equality and all the rest of it, but the word's just got such connotations," she said. "It reminds people of trade unions, crew-cut hair and dungarees, and give the impression that you sort of hate men."

Ms. Shankland certainly doesn't hate her husband, a superintendent in the South Wales police force who came in for a bit of ribbing when he appeared, particularly because she had not told him about it in advance.

"I wasn't aware that she was going to resolve the situation in such a direct and public way," Mr. Toms said. But he proclaimed himself unfazed by the experience, even when he found that the ad was inserted into the agenda at his office meeting as a joke on the day it appeared. "I don't, as a man, need to put a tag around a woman's neck to say that I'm married to her."

PEOPLE

FIFTY-ONE of the original storyboards from the 1958 film about the sinking of the Titanic, "A Night to Remember," were sold at an auction in London for £2,400 (about \$3,800). The seller, the 81-year-old Robert Bell, drew the pen-and-ink sketches for the picture, made at Pinewood Studios in southern England, as his first job in the film industry. The buyer asked to remain anonymous. The Phillips auction house said the 51 storyboards used to calculate the dramatic shots and special effects leading to the sinking of the luxury liner sold for three times the minimum estimate.

Lisa Marie Presley has dropped her lawsuit against the National Enquirer, which had said she was suicidal. "I am satisfied with the settlement," Presley said, adding that the lawsuit was designed to send a message to tabloids that she won't tolerate publication of untruths. The Enquirer's editor, Steve Coz, was outraged by her announcement. "She

is lying if she means to suggest that she proved false the 1997 article," Coz said. "If Lisa Marie wanted a public airing of the facts surrounding these matters she would not have dropped her lawsuit." Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Elle McPherson was in a tight, mink-trimmed suit. Baby wore white lace. Photographers gathered outside the church of Sant'Agostino church in Rome as the model-turned-mom arrived for the baptism of 11-month-old Arpad Flynn Alexander Busson, whose father is the French financier Arpad Busson. The baptism was followed by a luncheon hosted by the baby's godfather, the industrialist Gianni Agnelli.

The motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel has received a liver transplant in an operation at Tampa General Hospital in Florida. "He's in stable condition," a hospital spokes-

man, John Dunn, said, confirming the transplant. He said he was not authorized to give any details of the operation. According to a message on Knievel's official Web site (www.evelknievel.com), the operation took place on Tuesday night. "He was in surgery most of the night. It was completed successfully and was a normal operation," the message said. Knievel, 60, had hepatitis C and had been on a waiting list for a liver transplant for several months. Now retired, he became known in the 1960s and 1970s for his motorcycle stunts, which often ended in spectacular crashes.

The wife of the conductor Andre Previn has filed for divorce. Heather Mary Previn cited "irreconcilable differences" in her divorce complaint as the reason for wanting to end the 17-year marriage. Mrs. Previn is seeking custody of the couple's 15-year-old son, Lukas, and an unspecified amount of alimony and child

support. Mrs. Previn, who lives on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, with her son, sells jewelry at her Edgartown store. Previn, whose work has earned him multiple Grammy and Academy Awards, lives in New York. Previn has been married four times, including an eight-year marriage to the actress Mia Farrow.

More than 100 photographers took up positions overnight outside London's Ritz hotel for the most elusive shot of all: Prince Charles together with his long-time lover, Camilla Parker Bowles. Speculation reached fever pitch that the pair would leave the hotel together on Thursday after a birthday party for Camilla's sister, Annabel. Parker Bowles gave a 50th birthday party for Prince Charles in November but they have not been seen together in public, a shot that photographers say could be worth £1 million. The two have been to clubs, restaurants and friends' marriages together but always kept a low profile.



ENGRAVED IN SNOW — Sculpture in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, after storms.



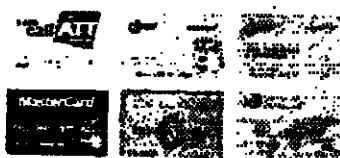
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U.S. Restricts Bridge to Aid Saddam's Foes

By Victoria Toomey

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives on Thursday passed a bill that would restrict U.S. aid to Iraq's opposition forces, a move that critics say would undermine the U.S. military effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime. The bill, known as the Iraq Liberation Act, was passed by a vote of 227 to 193. It would prohibit the U.S. from providing any military or financial aid to any group that is active in Iraq and is opposed to the current government. The bill also prohibits the U.S. from providing any military or financial aid to any group that is active in Iraq and is opposed to the current government. The bill also prohibits the U.S. from providing any military or financial aid to any group that is active in Iraq and is opposed to the current government.

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